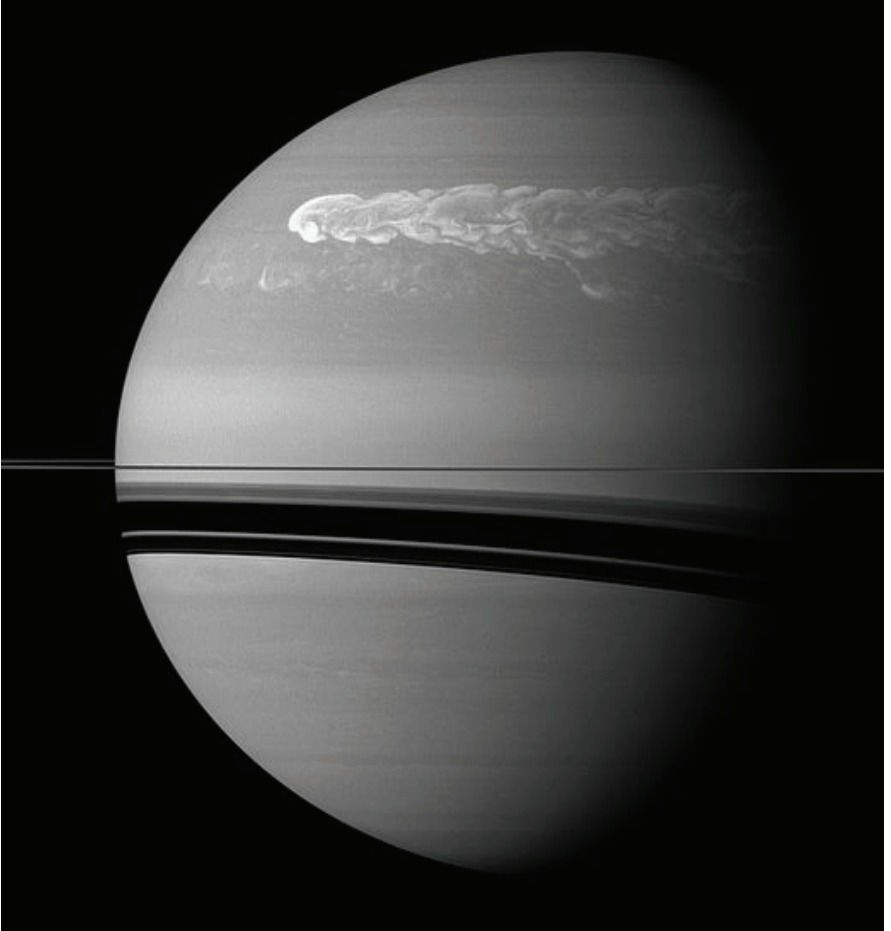


The

SCAM

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Volume 31, No. 8

August, 2013



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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

Once again, the “dog days” are upon us. During the past month, I received an e-mail from a younger member (he is 30) questioning how we further the stated goals of Mensa. He originally intended the message to be a “letter to the editor” to be included in this issue. I agreed to publish the letter.

According to his letter, he had been to one recent event, but was dismayed as he was the only young member present. Because of some of the specific content, I decided to write him back. I asked him a few questions in an attempt to find out what some of his interests were and to try to get specifics as to what he expected from his membership. He did answer my questions, but asked to withdraw his letter.

While, as I had pointed out in a prior issue, most of our members are also eligible for AARP membership, we do have other young members. LocSec Wynn Rostek has repeatedly advocated connecting with our younger members as he sees them as SCAM’s future.

Once again, I will reiterate what I stated in prior issue: The future of SCAM, and that of Mensa is what YOU make of it. If you are looking for a specific activity, do not wait for someone else to start it. Organize the event and contact our Calendar Coordinator (info on Page Two) before the 8th of the month before the planned event. As an example, if you are planning a Halloween Party, you would need to contact Doug before September 8th.

If your event is an impromptu event, you can e-mail George Patterson, who will get the word out on our e-mail list. It is simple as that.

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 have faith in science

Some people have faith in math

Some people have faith in logic

But Gödel's theorem says they are incomplete

The only thing that is complete is love

I have faith in love

And have tried to lead a love based life

Not always succeeding

But always trying

Love is God and God is Love

So I have faith in Love which is faith in God

The combination of a grain with a legume provides humans with most of the basic nutrients for growth and survival. Grains are a good source of protein and a staple food in many parts of the world, but they are not a complete protein: they do not contain all of the essential amino acids in sufficient amounts for good health, and are often combined with other sources of protein, such as nuts, seeds, or beans. Most primitive and poor societies depend on this combination for their basic diet. The grain and legume couple rely on the most common and inexpensive forms of food obtainable in an area. As these societies become more affluent, and animal based protein becomes more available, the grain and legume duo move from a staple to a traditional side dish.

The grain component is often rice, but wheat, in various forms, is also common. The legume is more varied, black-eyed peas, black beans, soy, and kidney beans predominate. The individual national and cultural differences are also expressed in seasonings and additions.

Starting in the U. S., we have **Red Beans and Rice**. It is regarded as a New Orleans or Southern dish. The Red Beans are kidney beans.

Also in the U. S., is **Succotash**, consisting of corn and lima beans. It originated with native Americans in the Northeast and was taken up by the Pilgrims and eventually spread to all of the U. S.

Another Southern dish is **Hoppin' John**. This consists of black-eyed peas and rice. **Hoppin' Juan** uses black beans instead of black-eyed peas.

From Cuba comes **Black Beans and Rice**. It is also known as **Moros e Cristianos** (Moors and Christians).

The Italians have **Risi e Bisi** (Rice and Peas) and **Pasta e Fagiola**, colloquially known as **pasta fazool**, (pasta and beans) soup.

Couscous is a North African dish. **Couscous** is small bits of wheat pasta. It is usually served with garbanzo or chick peas.

In Brazil a black beans and rice dish is called **Feijoada**. Other Latin American countries have their own names for **Black Beans and Rice**.

Mexico has given us the **Burrito**. In its original form it was a wheat flour tortilla rolled around refried (pinto) beans.

As can be seen from the above list, rice is the most common grain and black beans the most common legume. Each of these basic dishes has morphed into more complex dishes utilizing additional vegetables, meats, and spices, sometimes to the extent that the original grain or legume is omitted.

Has anyone checked the murder rate in Flint and Saginaw lately? It's higher than Detroit! Yes it is---just check the statistics. Awesome! They are once more Número Uno! They are upholding a proud tradition.

Now you might ask; how can they possibly be number 1 when Detroiters will kill you for simply pronouncing Detroit wrong or not knowing who Calvin is. They do that.

It's even higher than Chicago's and it's much higher than Afghanistan's if you count UN troop loss against population.

Why aren't we recruiting these killing machines to fight our wars? They don't need tanks or airplanes. They don't need uniforms. They don't even need salaries.

Just a plain old hand gun or an AK-47 will do.

They like killing! --- Ha! Got ya sucka! But, all that night noise---how can one get a decent night's sleep? It's no wonder people want to get out of town.

The Flint and Saginaw news stations report the losses on a daily basis pretty much like Detroit news list the Lion's weekly losses.

The problem is; they only kill .64 out of every 1,000 population. However, if they become a statistic then there will be no need for them to do the math.

I have to admit that I get a bit nervous while driving through either Flint or Saginaw.

But, I also believe I would get a little nervous climbing the CNN tower in a thunder storm just to see if a stray lightning bolt could find me. And I think that I would probably get a little nervous playing Russian Roulette with five bullets even though I haven't tried that either.

I'm thinking that it is strictly a matter of home-town pride at being the very best killing machines in the country that keeps Flint and Saginaw at the top of their game.

And, keeping that lofty position is not an easy matter when residents of Detroit and Chicago will shoot at anything that blinks. But, piling up enough dead bodies to keep the count above eager competitors is a challenge; city planners should take note.

If it was only for the killing then they could just mutilate and kill cats and dogs like normal people in Gladwin always do. But, if it is pride they're after then I think I can help them maintain their traditions and positions by increasing their odds significantly.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

We too have a tradition. In Gladwin County we play our own version of Russian Roulette. We get four or five friends in a tight group and have the person in the middle shoot a hunting arrow straight into the air. The last person to run is declared the winner, or loser, whatever the case may be. It is a total blast watching the indecision and total fear on the loser's face a scant second before impact.

It seems to be a near perfect way to instill a bit of comedy and adventure into the drab gang-bangers lives , decrease a burgeoning US population, stop night noise pollution, decrease unemployment by teaching junkies to be pall bearers and keep a proud tradition alive. It could also teach them that drive-by shootings, basketball and football are not the only team sports.

We know that holding on to a number one position is never easy. So, who's to say we can't put hundreds of players together and shoot dozens of arrows at once. The numbers would sky-rocket. They could start their own dynasty.

Any survivors could hold their heads high and proudly proclaim; We're #1—We're #1!. Now that would be just totally awesome!

—TC



A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of "support" (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

As some of you may (or may not) know, I took a trip to Cuba last February. Each evening, I wrote up notes of the day's events, so that I could document my visit upon my return, thinking it would be easier to produce my travel memoir rather than relate my adventure each time to friends and family who asked about it. The trip itself was wonderful, fascinating, and hugely enlightening.

However, after crossing back the 90-mile separation from the USA, I just couldn't seem to get up the resolve to record my adventure. The little "fluff" piece I published in the June SCAM, My Brian Hertz, alluded to this writer's block I was experiencing.

Frustrated, I finally managed to talk myself into just starting to write up my notes in hopes that by beginning to document the trip, it would loosen up whatever it was that seemed to be clogging my journalistic flow.

Okay.

So, where are my notes?

Uh-oh. I know I put them "someplace special" so I wouldn't inadvertently toss them into the recycle bin, but damned if I could find that special someplace. I checked all the usual suspects, then the unusual ones, and finally even the bizarre ones (*including the freezer!*). No luck.

Here I am, ready to write up my travelogue magnum opus, and I can't find my friggin' notes! I have a vague recollection of everything I did and saw and people I met, and what I thought about all of it, but I wrote it all down *specifically* so that I could get it right, rather than just blathering about the tourist-y crap and the old cars.

Damn!

Well, wouldn'tcha know, as soon as I stopped actively looking for the notes, I found them (*don't ask, it's too embarrassing*). So, I plan to review what I wrote – it's been 5 months now – to refresh my memory and with any luck, I'll submit the story of my adventure to ISOM (Island South Of Miami, as cigar people refer to it) for publication next month.

How embarrassing!

The George

Broward Mensa Proudly Presents

FLoRanGe 2013:

“Suite 16”

(Our 16th RG!)

Fort Lauderdale, Labor Day Weekend

August 30 – September 2, 2013

Including our “world-famous” hospitality!

Three days of friends, speakers, contests, demonstrations, tournaments, games around the clock, slumber party (bring PJs), Wit T-Shirt contest, hugging contest, pool, hot tub, most meals, and more fun stuff that we haven't even dreamed up yet!

Location:

Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek
555 West Cypress Creek Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Registration:

\$85.00 through August 26
\$90.00 after August 26
\$40.00 for children under 12

Reservations: 888-627-8250

Hotel: 954-772-5400

Room rate \$94/night for 1–4 people (lower rate!)

Mail registration checks to our registrar: Jackie Callaghan, 373 NW 36 Ave, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. Make checks payable to *Broward Mensa*. Send email to callaghan123@gmail.com or call 561-676-9265.

Names of Adults/Teens

Names of Children

Address _____




Email Address _____

Phone _____ Registration Total \$ _____

Badge Names (if different from above):

August 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|---|----|---|--|
| | C.A.B.A.G.E. | | | 1 |  | 3 GO! |
| 4 | 5 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 6 |  | 8 | 9 | 10 GO! |
| 11 | 12 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 GO! |
| 18 | 19 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 GO! |
| 25 | 26 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  GO! |

SCAM Calendar of Events for August 2013

7th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

2nd - 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.

31st - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.I.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at a soon-to-be announced venue. Our long-time location, Miyako's, is now out of business, so we are in the process of finding a new place.

Contact: George, 777-3721 for details.

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar".

MENSA TESTING

Aug. 17 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 Sept. 21.

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

Of CABBAGES 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 the Space Coast Area GO Association.
1 p.m. Host: George Lebovitz,
the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com

Membership Notes for August 2013

*No membership additions
to report for this month.*

AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| 2nd | James Vanaman | 18th | Richard Carlton |
| 5th | Michael Lawley | 22nd | Shirley Jones |
| 11th | Cypryan Klish II | 30th | Michael Greene |
| 13th | Ronald Gaynor | | |
| 15th | William Lamoureux | | |
| 16th | Kevin Mellett | | |



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.

As I write these words, I had just learned, as nearly everyone else did, that George Zimmerman was acquitted of second degree murder and manslaughter charges in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Admittedly, I have tried my best to avoid all the media hype surrounding this case since its inception and most recently with the tawdry “gavel to gavel coverage” by Mickey Mouse news.

Here is a brief synopsis of how I understand the case. My knowledge is limited since my only source of “information” was carefully dispensed by the corporate news media. Last year, Zimmerman was on patrol for his Neighborhood Watch when he encountered Martin, whom he regarded as a suspicious character in the area. Prior to this, Zimmerman did not know Martin. He confronted Martin, both were involved in a physical altercation, which ended when Zimmerman shot and killed Martin. Upon investigation, Martin was found to be unarmed.

Zimmerman admitted to killing Martin, claiming self-defense, as he claimed he was in fear of his life. More than six weeks had passed before Zimmerman was arrested for the shooting. The case was celebrated by the media as a “Stand Your Ground” case. Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” statute reads as follows:

“776.013(3): A person who is not engaged in an unlawful activity and who is attacked in any other place where he or she has a right to be has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and meet force with force, including deadly force if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony.”

If I heard the story correctly, the deadly altercation began when Zimmerman confronted Martin (had Zimmerman not done so, the shooting would not have occurred). If that is indeed the case, Zimmerman attacked Martin; Martin then defended himself (justifiably, under the above statute). Zimmerman, in turn, shoots Martin. Is it, then, possible, to have a “multiple self-defense” claim? For example, Person A attacks Person B. Person B fights back, defending himself. Person A sees Person B’s self-defense as an attack so, in turn, defends *himself* against the “attack”. That seems to be what happened in the Zimmerman case. Needless to say, the Zimmerman trial, in my opinion, was a miscarriage of justice.

Yet, the story does not end here. Now, the U.S. Department of Justice is now looking into charging Zimmerman with “civil rights violations” committed

(Continued on page 16)

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Badge Names (if different from above):

I decided to once again combine my interest in science and mathematics with a month of the year. This time it is the mathematical physicist Edward Witten, who was born August 26, 1951 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Here we have a unique individual whom I believe typifies what we like to see in a Mensa member: A variety of interests and pursuits. Witten received a BA with a major in history and minor in linguistics from Brandeis University. He published articles in *The New Republic* and *The Nation*, as well as worked as a campaigner for George McGovern's presidential bid. Witten attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an economics graduate student, and then dropped out. He returned to the academic world and enrolled in Princeton University to obtain a Ph.D in physics. He has since contributed immensely to the field of theoretical physics and is most notable for his contributions to String Theory. Said Brian Greene, physicist, major developer of String Theory, and a popular writer and TV science personality: "Everything I've ever worked on, if I trace it intellectual roots, I find they end at Witten's feet."

There are numerous anecdotes of Witten amazing people with his ability to grasp complex mathematical concepts. A professor at Yale once told of his experience working with Witten. He said that one day Witten told him he had just learned of a way to find exact S-matrices in two dimensions that had been invented by Zamolodchikov and that he wanted to extend the ideas to super symmetry models. He believed the professor was the resident S-matrix expert and wanted to work together on this field. The professor was delighted. He said that all of his years of training in Berkeley gave him a tremendous advantage over Ed--- for an entire week. One of Witten's student's, amazed by Witten's effortless and excellent explanation of complex mathematics, called him 'the Martin'. I wonder what it would be like to meet him at a Mensa gathering!

Time magazine wrote in 2004 that "[Witten]....is considered the greatest theoretical physicist in the world". If one can overlook the usual hyperbole of the news media, Witten has been involved in some of the most revolutionary contributions to our understanding of how the universe works. He has more than 340 publications that are primarily in quantum field theory and related topology and geometry research. He has proposed the existence of a unifying theory called M-theory (Note: no one seems to know what 'M' stands for... is it his inverted initial, the 'Mighty' theory, stands for 'Martian' .. as a Fla Tech *Crimson* newspaper cartoon suggested once... perhaps 'Mensa' theory .. one could hope) which might be one of the fundamental physical theories of the universe (at least Steven Hawking in his book , *The Grand Design*, seems to think it could be).

(Continued on page 16)

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His additional work includes relating super-symmetry and Morse theory (are those well-proportioned telegraph keys?), knot theory and twistor theory (sailor's beliefs and 1970's Hasbro games?), and mirror symmetry and D-branes (reflections on the Mensa thinking organ?). Witten seems to live and breathe mathematics and its application to the most arcane aspects of theoretical physics.

Witten constantly receives praise from physicists for his incredible mathematical interpretations of theoretical physics and its applications to their fields of study. In a realm of this type of higher intellect, to receive such kudos from your co-workers is no mean accomplishment. Even with this, he is reported to remain very low key and modest when discussing his contributions.

In 1990, Witten was the first physicist to ever to receive the Fields Medal by the International Mathematical Union (Einstein would have been pleased). In addition, he has won numerous awards ranging from the MacArthur Fellowship and National Medal of Science to the Isaac Newton Medal and Albert Einstein Award. All this from a guy who started out as liberal arts major and political worker in college and took up physics rather late in his academic career! It goes to show that everyone should try to learn and pursue as many experiences as they can until they find the ONE topic they believe they fit best into for their life's work.

References

1. Greene, Brian (1990). *The Elegant Universe*. London: Jonathan Cape. ISBN 978-0-224-05299-3
2. Lemonick, Michael (April 26, 2004). "Edward Witten". *Time*. Retrieved June 20, 2013.
3. *The International Who's Who 1992-93*, p.1754.

FROM THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Continued

(Continued from page 13)

in connection with the shooting death of Martin. As much as I believe Zimmerman should have been convicted by the jury for his actions, I believe it is just as wrong for the Justice Department to try to reopen the case. The jury's verdict in this matter should stand. To not respect the verdict would amount to double jeopardy which is constitutionally prohibited. Zimmerman stood trial for his actions and received a favorable (to him) verdict. He is entitled to walk away a free man. There is no way justice will ever be served in this matter. Yet two wrongs do not make a right.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST
FOR
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for
SCAM submittal guidelines.

I've just returned from my first American Mensa Committee (AMC, or Board of Directors) meeting at the 2013 Annual Gathering in Fort Worth. With a stunningly large turnover of new Board officers, we spent a lot of time in orientation and standard business (approving minutes, appointing committee chairs and action committees, reviewing the financial statements, etc.). There were also presentations to the Board, and the one I want to focus on this month is the one on Mobile Tech and Local Groups.

Andrew Heffernan (RVC 1) and Heather Poirier (1st Vice-Chair) showed us a video about the emergence, ubiquity and generational usage of various social and mobile networking platforms, and discussed ideas on how to keep local groups engaged through the use of mobile technology. (You can see the video for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUCfFcchw1w>) Because there are so many varying opinions on this topic, the discussion focused on measurable statistics, steering away from anecdotes and opinions. We came away with an understanding that if American Mensa is going to grow we'll have to find more ways to take advantage of the latest tools, which are mainly directed towards younger members. This is a generalization, of course; your mileage may vary. I'm not one of the younger members, but even I had three mobile devices on the table in front of me during the presentation – a smartphone, an iPad, and a laptop.

As a result of this, a Local Group Logistics Team has been established to coordinate information, best practices, and technology templates for use by local groups. LaRae Bakerink (2nd Vice Chair) will be the Chairperson of this team.

As for myself, I will be serving on the Communication and Risk Management Committees, in addition to my responsibilities for the thirteen Local Groups in Region 10.

Combining the mobile tech strategy with our Local Groups and Communications, I've established a Facebook Group for Mensa Region 10 (search for "Mensa Region 10" or go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/641128319231852/>). There are 44 members in this group so far but it is open to all Region 10 members: a forum for discussing upcoming events around the region such as the Broward RG or the Tampa Games Weekend. This will supplement the nine known Local Group Facebook groups in Region 10 (I'll be contacting the remaining four groups over the next month to see how they may take advantage of this tool for their own membership). Drop me a line if you are interested in any of these, or if you have any other topics you would like to discuss.

Thomas George Thomas, RVC10@us.mensa.org

No ExComm meeting was held in July.

*Ch-ch-ch-changes.
Turn and face the strain.*

David Bowie nailed it. People like to say that death and taxes are inevitable. They really need to add change to that list. I just got out of the hospital a few hours ago. That was my third hospitalization in six weeks. The last 14 months since the first cancer surgery have been nothing but adapting to changes.

Between this hospitalization and the one prior to it, I lost my job. Now the wife and I are adapting to a whole new set of changes. In spite of everything that has happened in that time, I really don't feel sorry for myself. My parents ended up having to move to an assisted living facility nearly a year ago. My father passed away a few months ago, leaving my mother to live with a stranger in her room at the assisted living facility.

Unless you die a sudden death, you're going to have to eventually cope with some significant changes in your life.

Which brings me the pertinent point. Mensa is changing. There is nothing you can do to turn back the tide. You may not like the changes, but that is not going to make them go away. So, you have two choices. You can retreat into memories of how things used to be, or you can become part of the change. Today's Mensa is vastly different from the one I joined over 30 years ago. But I'm making a serious effort to not only accept the changes, but to help drive the changes.

Mensa is your organization, both at the local and the national level. I urge you to get involved in any way you are comfortable. Don't let something glorious like the changing Mensa pass you by.