

The

SCAM

page east read ensa

The END... Of the LINE?

See Page 3



*Cover photo courtesy of nycsubways.org; photo by Doug Grotjahn/
Collection of Joe Testagrose. Reprinted by permission.*



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



Executive Committee

Local Secretary

WYNN ROSTEK

3456 Willis Dr., Titusville, FL 32796

267-9391 locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Assistant Local Secretary

TERRY VALEK

626-8523

asstlocsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Recording Secretary

GEORGE LBOVITZ

1649 PGA Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935

recsecretary@scam.us.mensa.org

Member-At-Large

KAREN FREIBERG

876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955

633-1636 member@scam.us.mensa.org

Treasurer

DENNIS LOGAN

285 Tangelo St., Satellite Beach, FL 32937

501-7547 treasurer@scam.us.mensa.org

SCAM Appointees

Proctor Coordinator

HANK RHODES

MensaTest@cflrr.com

Membership

GEORGE PATTERSON

Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.

KAREN FREIBERG

Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair

GEORGE LBOVITZ

SCAM Bylaws Committee

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

membership@scam.us.mensa.org

Mediator

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

The SCAM Editorial Staff

Editor

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne, FL

32901

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Webmaster

KAREN FREIBERG

633-1636

webmaster@scam.us.mensa.org

Assembly/Circulation

GEORGE PATTERSON

777-3721

Calendar

DOUG STARKE

633-1636

doug@starke.com

American Mensa Ltd.

**THOMAS GEORGE THOMAS,
RVC10**

37647 Sky Lake Cir.

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-

7646 (813) 994-3981

RVC10@us.mensa.org

AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.

1229 Corporate Drive West

Arlington, TX 76006-6103

(817) 607-0060

AmericanMensa@mensa.org

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

Seeing the cover of this issue may bring on a sense of déjà vu to some of you out there. There may be a good reason for this. This cover originally appeared about two years ago on the March 2012 issue of The SCAM, in order to honor the upcoming End of the World that, according to the Mayan Calendar, was supposed to take place December 21, 2012. Of course, this prediction has now joined the ever-expanding archive with all the previous Doomsday Prophecies.

So, with the Mayan deadline safely behind us, why rerun this cover? Admittedly, part of this is my fascination with pictures of trains, especially in public transit systems. This particular picture is of two trains at a station literally at the end of the line. It was also a station I had frequented in my younger days as a New Yorker in my commute to and from work. Yes, it brings back memories...

Yet, there is another motivation: There is a prediction afoot that the end of SCAM is drawing nigh. Here is my question—Is SCAM ready to fold, or is this really like all the other Prophecies of Doom, something to scare the credulous, while the rest of us just shake our heads and go by? Check out the minutes on the back page and the “My Summer Vacation” article elsewhere in this issue.

Yet, the question of whether SCAM will end does bring us to an important point—it does not have to happen. However, to assure SCAM’s survival will require more member participation, so it is really up to you. How much is SCAM really worth to you? You decide.

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.

I'm not one to brag excessively or gloat depending on your definition of excessive. But, when it comes to my children and grandchildren, well now, that's a different definition entirely.

I'd like to tell you just how proud I am. I am simply beaming!

My two boys, each with their own teenage boys, decided to teach the youngsters how to survive in the wilderness. My eldest, from Rhode Island, and his son flew into Denver and my youngest, with his son, drove from Oklahoma City into Denver where they picked up the others and continued on into Wyoming. They left the car at a McDonald's parking lot, shouldered their individual sleeping bags, rifles and fishing poles and began their perilous trek into the vast wilderness of Wyoming's outback.

Like the TV show "Survivors" they each took a handful of rice but unlike the show they didn't have competitions to earn scrumptious meals which they were sure they would have won, hand down. They would shoot small game and catch fish to survive like the frontiersmen did in the past. They would build a simple shelter to stave off the elements and enjoy the fruits of nature.

Everything went so well the first day. Visions of succulent meals of furry little animals danced in their heads as the youngsters listened to stories of hunting prowess and of the difficulties of growing up in the olden days before texting and even the internet. But, on the second day Nature, they learned, had a dark evil side. Mother Nature, as it turned out, had hidden the small game and completely forgotten to stock the stream with fish of any size. The rice had been eaten on the very first evening since they were certain there would be delectables galore the next day.

Maybe a hungry Grizzly would stray into camp. Shame on him if he did for they would show him what a grizzly appetite was really like but, no tasty Grizzly appeared. Their stomachs growled. They were quickly learning how cruel Nature could be.

Then, by late afternoon of the third day the 'hungries' had a powerful grip and that bitch of nature, they knew, was smiling at their misery. It was high time for survival mode to kick in; it did!

How to eat when there was nothing to eat; How to fight off those terrible hunger pangs that not only tore at their guts but their minds as well; How to survive in this hellish environment; How long could they last with nothing but water? Come on brain, get to work! Survivor man, where are you?

Abracadabra! Shazzamm! Then, like a lightning bolt from the blue, their

(Continued on page 10)

The earliest method of disposing of human waste is really not a method. The waste is dropped anywhere the human happens to be. When mammals became differentiated from other animals, that is what they did. When animals began to live in fixed groups, such as primates, cats, and dogs, they learned to deposit their waste outside of their living areas. We still do that on wilderness camping trips, in some areas of Africa and South America, farmers working in fields far from their abodes do that, as well as sailors on ships and boats that have no toilets do that. Even our domesticated pets will do that if given the chance. Animals like cattle and sheep that do not live in family groups will drop their waste anywhere they happen to be.

When humans settled in communities and abandoned nomadic habits, they had to devise a means of disposing of their wastes without damaging their nearby environment. Thus evolved the outhouse and its equivalents. It is still in use in many parts of the world including the U. S.

The current method of disposing of human waste, that of indoor plumbing, began before the first century of the common era. There are archeological remains of indoor flush toilets found in early Greek cities, Scottish villages, and Roman ruins. However, the rise of the modern toilet began with the flush toilet ascribed to Mr. Crapper in the nineteenth century, although he did not invent it.

Our interest here is the chamber pot, common in civilized Western society during the past century and before. Chamber pots reached their maximum use in Victorian times up to the middle of the last century when indoor plumbing finally took over. Chamber pots are still in use where people are confined to an indoor environment because of inclement weather; camping supply stores carry these. Also, as bed pans, they can be found in hospitals and like facilities. The bedpan was and is used where the patient has an inability to move or is unable to leave their bed.

When people assembled in cities and towns and homes had no access to sewer systems, chamber pots



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

were used to collect human waste. For disposal, the waste was often thrown out of upper story windows on to the street below. I would not say that the waste was thrown unceremoniously. The thrower would ceremonially warn the pedestrians in the street that something was coming by crying *gardez l'eau*. That cry was truncated to *l'eau* and then corrupted to "loo", which is now what a toilet is called in British slang. Otherwise, the chamber pot was emptied onto a public sewer or outhouse.

The standard chamber pot was a bowl-shaped container with a handle and often a lid, kept in the bedroom, sized to fit under the bed where it was concealed. In wealthier homes it may have been kept in a cabinet with a closable cover.

The chamber pot was used primarily for the collection of urine. Feces collection was relegated mostly to outhouses or public toilets. Urine was a valued commodity in Victorian times, being used in dyeing of cloth, especially woollens. The urine of virgins was especially prized.

The Palace of Versailles lacked toilets, water, and heat. At its largest, it had over 350 apartments, the smallest being only one or two rooms. Others were much larger. The apartments were arranged along tiled corridors. Each apartment was occupied by a royalty, a noble and their families and servants which could mean over a thousand people. As there were no toilets in the Palace, human waste was collected in chamber pots. The chamber pots were usually kept and used in a *chambre de toilette* which translates as a dressing room, which accounts for both our uses of the word "toilet". It was the servant's duty to dispose of the waste, which many times meant throwing it into the corridors. This then required the nobles to be carried in litters along the corridors on their way to and from the public rooms.



As I'm writing this, the Tampa RG is still months away, but we already have more people registered for our Regional Gathering than attended last year! Melissa Stephens is planning all sorts of yummy foods for us, but cooking for this many people, she'll need help setting things up and cleaning up too. Any and all volunteer help would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Melissa at 813-476-5405 or melissalstephens@aol.com to let her know how you can help her out. Thank you!

Your RG organizers have been checking into getting margarita machine(s) to make our frozen concoctions, and it looks like they're a go. (*If margaritas aren't your thing, there will be other drinks available.*)

Lowry Park Zoo will be bringing us animals, along with a zoo expert to tell us all about them. We're getting a couple of exotic animals as well as other animals they regularly take on their "Zoo to You" program (including an owl, because well, this is Mensa). They gave us a great program when we tried it years ago, and I'm really looking forward to seeing this presentation.

Jack Brawner is lining up all sorts of interesting speakers for us:

"Battlebots" and **"The Kennedy Assassination"**—Mark Beiro, a Tampa native with quite a history, has made his living as an announcer, a speaker, an entrepreneur, etc. He is a leading expert on the Kennedy assassination, and will be giving a presentation on this topic. He was also the ring announcer and one of the creative forces behind Comedy Central's hit show "Battlebots", and will be entertaining us with behind-the-scenes stories from that adventure.

"Cartoonisms"—Larry Bush, a leading expert on cartoons as a part of American culture, will present Cartoonisms, words that have entered the language via cartoons.

"Getting The Most Out Of Your Life"—Professional speaker and business coach Tom Kearns will help us improve our daily lives.

Protecting Yourself on the Internet—Keith Brawner (PhD, computer engineering/artificial intelligence) discusses how we can cyber-protect ourselves.

Native American Culture—John "Sky Dancer" and Marsha "Many Ponies" Raymond are coming down from Tennessee to share Native American culture. They perform some really cool native music as part of their presentation.

A recent visit to Cuba—Claire Modarelli, cruise specialist, just returned

(Continued on page 19)

As some of my faithful readers (and I have this horrible, sinking sensation that it is the two of you with Justin Bieber haircuts over by that sculpture of a melted Pez dispenser doing I-don't-want-to-know-what with that three-legged llama) may have noticed, I have been absent from these pages for a while. After writing an article each month for over six years, I have taken an eight month hiatus. Originally, I attributed this lapse to writer's block; however, I was still able to write articles for other venues without problem. So, then, why?

Boredom.

After six years of writing provocative, challenging, insulting, entertaining, nonsensical, informative, opinionated, and political articles, and just plain ridiculous pap, I got tired of hearing (*reading, actually*) myself talk.

With very few exceptions, I never got any feedback from you great unwashed masses out there. I knew you were out there reading this, but had no idea whether you found any of it fascinating or foolish, entertaining or eccentric, informed or infirm. So I stopped. And, apparently, nobody missed me.

It's a shame this apathetic response discouraged me from continuing to write for this venerated journal, but that's not the important issue I'm here to present.

I'm here to talk about Alice's Restaurant.

No, wait! That's something else entirely.

Actually, I am alerting all members of SCAM that if this lethargy continues, it may well result in the end of our local chapter.

At the last ExComm (*see minutes of the March, 2014 ExComm meeting*) we discussed the very real possibility of dissolving SCAM and reverting to our status as part of Central Florida Mensa since all members must have a local chapter. If the purpose of SCAM is merely to provide the name of a local chapter for our 200-odd members, why exist at all?

Purpose. That's the issue. What is the purpose of SCAM? Our Treasurer, Dennis Logan, has been advocating coming up with a mission statement for SCAM. He solicited suggestions in the last issue of The SCAM and – no surprise – got no responses. Well, the time has come to fish or cut bait, shit or get off the pot. If we can't come up with a legitimate purpose for being other than as an overarching organization to make our Mensa memberships valid, then it's time to call it quits.

So, I'm presenting a challenge to the 200 or so of you out there. Should we

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

continue or should we admit we serve no purpose and fold up our tents and go home?

Here's some incentive for you. The ExComm has decided hold a general meeting as an opportunity for members of SCAM to meet each other, engage socially, and discuss our future. This meeting will be held on Saturday, May 10th, at the **CrossFire Deli & Grill** (located at the intersection of Wickham & Lake Washington roads in Melbourne: <http://crossfiredeli-grill.com>). We have engaged a speaker who, beginning at 6:00 pm, will present a fascinating tale of the adventure of being incarcerated in a foreign prison. Dinner to follow around 7:00 pm. As further inducement to attend, *I am offering to buy the first round of beer or wine for everyone.* You should also know that the CrossFire is one of the few restaurants in Brevard County with a **real** chef! Not a cook; a bona-fide phenomenal chef.

Now, I know that our members are spread across a very long geographical area encompassing both Brevard and Indian River Counties and that traveling such a distance may be challenging or even somewhat of a hardship; however, I feel that this issue of purpose for SCAM is sufficiently important to warrant making the effort to attend this function to determine whether we are to continue or not.

The choice is yours.

If you plan to attend this event, please RSVP to any ExComm officer (email addresses for all officers may be found in the SCAM) or reply directly to me at: glebovitz@att.net.

The George

Kennedy Space Center—Overnight Youth Event

Get ready for a night of exploration when you camp out on an Overnight Adventure at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Come face-to-face with an actual NASA astronaut, experience a larger-than-life 3-D IMAX® film and solve the Great Rocket Scavenger Hunt, led by our Overnight Adventure instructor team.

April 5 - 6 2014.

Check-in: April 5 at 4:15 pm at parking lot 4

Operating hours: 4:30 pm - 9 am the following morning.

Program includes dinner, snack and continental breakfast.

Ages 7 - 14.

\$112 per person.

Parents are welcome to register as well.

Please register with Gifted Youth Coordinator Christina Westerberg and make your payment via pay pal to: cw@giftedyouth.net

Sincerely,

Christina Westerberg

Gifted Youth Coordinator

Central Florida Mensa

cw@giftedyouth.net

SURVIVORS

Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Eureka moment; it came to them simultaneously; “*McDonalds*”.

They packed up their sleeping bags and trekked the grueling half mile back to Micky Dees and a Big Mac. What could be simpler? Why didn’t we think of it earlier?

Mother Nature, you dim-witted bitch, you lose!

We are SURVIVORS! Yea! ----- Yes, we’ll take fries with that!

—TC

Well, another month has flown by. Spring has sprung here on the space coast. I can't help but notice that every plant is sporting bright green new growth. I love this time of year. I hope your spring is equally enjoyable.

It was a busy month. We had several last minute events that were posted online and in the Email list we maintain. A good time was had by all in our trip to the Orlando Art Museum. And at our Arduino day, the blue LEDs were a big hit with the younger crowd.

The ExComm is working on having a general meeting for members. Goodies and a speaker are likely to be offered. More details to follow as they are worked out.

I must apologize for getting the area code wrong on Joanne Brown. I sent 204 to our good editor, but of course the correct area code for Joanne is 240. If anyone out there is interested in filling a spot on the next ExComm, just call one of the members of our NomElComm.

These days I seem to have more of a problem with transposing letters and numbers. I'm chalking it up to old age. It hardly ever happened when I was younger. Just another reason these are the golden years. (*Slight note of sarcasm.*)

If anyone out there is into photography, check out UglyHedgeHog.com. They publish a daily newsletter full of interesting information as well as having a weekly photography contest. You can also post problem pictures and get feedback from experts. Members run from point-and-shoot beginners to professional photographers with decades of experience.

We are still waiting to hear back from our RVC on the proposed bylaws. Several members of the ExComm would like to see a purpose for Space Coast Area Mensa. Having a purpose would make it easier for the ExComm to determine how good of a job we were doing and could help in deciding on new efforts.

That's a wrap for this month. I'll be busy with work, taxes, and a little travel. Stay happy out there.

-Wynn

April 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1		3		5 GO!
6	7 C.A.B.A.G.E.	8	9	10	11	12 GO!
13	14 C.A.B.A.G.E.	15	16	17	18	19 GO!
20	21 C.A.B.A.G.E.	22	23	24	25	
27	28 C.A.B.A.G.E.	29	30			

SCAM Calendar of Events for April 2014

2nd - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

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

4th - 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.*

26th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hioki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192.

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

MENSA TESTING

April 19 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 May 17.

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

Membership Notes for April 2014

WELCOME TO SCAM

Eric Roberts

Charles Satchwill

WELCOME BACK!

William Corey

Kenneth Thornton-Smith

APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	Richard Hussey	21st	Richard Ward
3rd	Gregory Ashburn	21st	Carol Schoff Lane
3rd	Beth Rutenber	23rd	Mary Ellen Donahue
3rd	George Lebovitz	25th	Mary Erdmann
5th	Douglas Solomon	28th	Clifford Miller
8th	Adam Cherwinski		
11th	Debra Saltzberg		
19th	James Dace		



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.

Someone once requested an article on Kurt Gödel. Since he was born in the month of April, I will ‘Spring’ it on you.

Kurt Friedrich Gödel (pronounced somewhat like *girdle*) was born on April 28, 1906 and died on January 14, 1978). A native of Brunn, Austria-Hungary (now Brno, Czech Republic). However, he had a changeable citizenship. He chose to become an Austrian citizen at age 23. When Germany annexed Austria in 1938, he automatically became a German citizen at age 32. After World War II, he became an American citizen at age 42 (*with the help of his good friend, Albert Einstein*).

When he was young, the family and friends nicknamed him ‘*Herr Warum*’ (Mr. Why), because of his continual curiosity and incessant asking of questions. At around the age of seven, he contracted rheumatic fever, from which he fully recovered. However, it probably left him with heart damage and the psychological impact that death was always close at hand.

While in school, he excelled with honors in all subjects, especially mathematics, languages, and religions. At the age of 18, he joined his older brother Rudolf at the University of Vienna. He originally intended to study theoretical physics. However, after a course which studied the Bertrand Russell book, *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*, he became more interested in mathematical logic. According to Gödel, mathematical logic was a “science prior to all others, which contains the ideas and principles underlying all sciences”. Mr. Spock would have been proud of him.

In 1931, (*at the age of 25 and one year after earning his doctorate*) he published what came to be called his ‘incompleteness theorems’ (*sounded like the titles of stories we hear from government and media talking heads these days*). He proved through his beloved logic, for any computable axiomatic (*self-evident, not requiring a proof*) system that is powerful enough to describe the arithmetic of the natural numbers that:

If the system is consistent it cannot be complete, and;

The consistency of the axioms cannot be proven within the system.

The theorems ended a half-century of attempts, which had been formalized by the challenge in 1900 by David Hilbert (*remember him from a previous SCAM essay?*) to find a set of axioms sufficient for all mathematics. The basic idea goes something like this: He constructed a formula that claims that it is unprovable in a given formal system. If it were provable, it would be false, which actually contradicts the idea that in a consistent system, provable statements are always true (*almost reminds me of that game logic question of ‘who*

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

cuts the barber's hair'J) Therefore, there will always be at least one true but unprovable statement. Gödel, in order to be precise enough for mathematics, had to produce a method (which he did, called *Gödel numbering*) to encode statements, proofs, and the concept of provability to demonstrate his theorems.

Douglas Hofstadter wrote a popular book (1979) called *Gödel, Escher, and Bach* to include the ideas of Gödel. The book includes an exploration of the ramifications of the fact that Gödel's incompleteness theorems could be applied to any Turing (remember Alan Turing from a previous SCAM essay?) computational system, which could possibly include the human brain.

Gödel published several papers in mathematical logic, while traveling back and forth between Europe and the universities of the USA. With the annexation of Austria to Nazi Germany in 1938, his association with the Jewish members of the Vienna Circle (even though he was not Jewish), and his conscription into the German army, Gödel and his wife fled from Austria. Gödel accepted a position at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton.

Albert Einstein was also in residence at IAS. He and Gödel became very good friends, and would take long walks together to and from the IAS. Einstein once confided to friends that his own work no longer meant much that he came to the Institute merely to have the privilege of walking and talking with Gödel. When Einstein died, Gödel seemed to die a little himself and was never very conversant with anyone else. Gödel had demonstrated the existence of paradoxical solutions to Einstein's field equations in general relativity. He gave it as a present to Einstein on his 70th birthday. These 'rotating universes' of Gödel's equations would allow time travel and caused Einstein to have doubts about his own theory.

In 1947, Einstein and Oskar Morgenstern (economist at IAS) accompanied Gödel to his U.S. citizenship exam, where they acted as witnesses. When the USA judge (Phillip Forman, who had administered the oath of citizenship to Einstein) came to the portion of asking Gödel if he thought a dictatorship like the Nazi regime could happen in the USA, there was a surprise. Gödel went on to explain how he had discovered an inconsistency in the U.S. Constitution that would allow the USA to become a dictatorship. Forman (receiving an explanation from Einstein and Morgenstern) was able to cut off Gödel in his discussion and moved the hearing on to other questions and a satisfying conclusion. Can't you just see a Mensa member oblivious to the harm he or she would cause, as they went on to explain in fool-proof mathematical logic of a theory that they

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

had on capital punishment to a jury at a murder trial?

In later life, Gödel suffered from extended periods of mental instability and had an obsessive fear of being poisoned. He would only eat food prepared by his wife, Adele. She was hospitalized in 1977 for six months, during which Gödel refused to eat, thereby starving himself to death. He died in Princeton Hospital, which recorded his death as a result of malnutrition caused by personality disorder. Being a theist, he believed in an afterlife (unlike his good friend, Einstein). Gödel said this of course presupposed that there are many relationships of which today's science and received wisdom haven't any inkling. However, he was convinced of this afterlife, independent of any theology. It would seem that if the world is rationally constructed and has meaning, then he thought the universe would be 'incomplete' without it.

REFERENCES

1. Dawson, John W. Logical Dilemmas: The Life and Work of Kurt Gödel. A.K. Peters, Ltd., 2005.
2. Davis, Martin (May 4, 2005). Gödel's universe. *Nature*.
3. McElroy, Tucker (2005). *A to Z Mathematicians*.
4. Morgenstern, Oskar (13 September 1971). "History of the Naturalization of Kurt Gödel" (PDF). Retrieved 10 February 2014.

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Feb 28,
2014**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$437.34
RG Fund	533.24
Reserve Fund	1208.31
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$2178.89
 <u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$461.34
Mensa Funding	174.21
Newsletter Printing	173.21
Misc. (Maintenance Fee)	25.00
Ending Balance	\$437.34
 <u>RG Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$533.24
Ending Balance	\$533.24
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.26
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.31
 <u>Post Office Account</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$122.12
Postage Costs	61.13
Ending Balance	\$60.99

(Continued from page 7)

from newly-opened up Cuba and will tell us about her adventures there.

Polygraphs—Dave Bryant is back by popular demand with his highly successful World Gathering presentation on lie detectors.

A Layman's Guide to Guns and Gun Laws—Steve Shapiro has his own business as a gun safety instructor and will explain gun laws to us.

Human Oddities and Circus Sideshows—Bonnie Wilpon will share her life-long collection of circus sideshow memorabilia with us. She may even bring a surprise guest!

A Brief History of Codes—Wynn Rostek, computer man extraordinaire, will explain computer codes.

"Midnight Magic with Marc"—Marc Lederman has shared his magic at many RGs across the country, and is coming down from Pennsylvania to mystify us with his legerdemain.

National Mensa—Communications Officer Marc Lederman has a short presentation and will then be joined by National Secretary Brian Reeves and Regional Vice Chairman Thomas Thomas for a panel discussion (with Q&A) for those interested in what's going on above the local level.

Negotiation—Brian Reeves is a professional negotiator and will be presenting on something he has spoken about many times in various venues, "Negotiation".

Besides speakers, we'll have fun activities including: Icebreakers with Joanne Brown, Jack Brawner's "think-outside-the-box" Treasure Hunt, Kyle Lai's Team Trivia, Arts and Crafts for All Ages with Theresa Shadrick, Tai Chi with Charles Godfrey, and Fun Trivia by Dan Chesnut.

And, of course, we'll have games. Maran Fulvi is organizing our tournaments and scheduled games. Last I checked, the schedule included Double-Deck Cancellation Hearts, Poker, Mexican Train Dominoes, Settlers of Catan, Dominion, Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe, THE Game, and Werewolf. There will also be plenty of games available for casual gaming.

Finally, for those of you with children, this year we're having a family/kid track on Saturday!

It's going to be a wonderful gathering. I do hope you'll join us! (To register, go to tampa.us.mensa.org and click on the picture of an owl. That will take you to the registration form.)

(Continued from page 23)

(email addresses for all officers may be found in the SCAM) or reply directly to me at: glebovitz@att.net. If there is sufficient interest, we might conduct such events on a monthly basis with future dates tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 14th and Saturday, July 12th.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014, at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

1. *General Fund: \$437.34, RG Fund: \$533.24, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.31, Total Assets: \$2,178.89.*

2. *Contacted 5 candidates for the first time, 8 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session is March 15, 2014 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.*

Minutes of the February, 2014 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at Karen Freiberg's home on February 5, 2014.

Members Present: Wynn Rostek, Terry Valek, Karen Freiberg, and Dennis Logan. **Absent:** George Lebovitz.

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. Approved last month's minutes; reviewed Treasurer's Report.

Newsletter postage has gone up.

Bylaws:

- Wynn's been talking to Thomas Thomas about National's view of bylaws; sometimes they seem ill-suited to small groups.
- National insists we cannot have email ExComm "meetings"; not their choice, but a regulation from the State of NY. The rule is for all to be able to hear at once. Several ExComm members suggested we look into Meet Me and other teleconference services.
- Dennis wants to define a purpose for Scam. First, what *is* our purpose? And second, include it in our bylaws. He'll submit a column to the newsletter about Scam's purpose, looking for feedback.
- Dennis wants to beat the bushes for new members. **And** see if we can drum up some movers and shakers for the ExComm.

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

- Wynn has generated some interest in member email notifications.
- Val is interested in more house parties.
- Wynn said he might be able to host an Open Opinion Night.
- Dennis wants a General Membership Meeting. Not a house party, but a more public venue. Food. Speaker. That kind of thing. He'll research locales.

NomElCom: we need to seat one. Val and Dennis offered to call members and ask them if they'd like to run for office. In doing so, we should be able to keep the NomElCom to their minimal duties...acting as a Point Of Contact for offering to run for office, and counting votes. Val will write a newsletter article asking for NomElCom volunteers and asking members to throw hats into the ring to actually run for office.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 5th at 6 p.m. at Karen's house.

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*.

At the time I write this, the American Mensa Board of Directors will be meeting on March 29 in Charlotte, NC to receive a several reports, notably from Treasurer Nick Sanford, Executive Director Pamela Donahoo, and Director of Science and Education Joanne Soper, as well as a demonstration of the online Compendium and presentations on all-electronic elections and the role of the RVC , plus voting on a number of motions that have come up since the December Board Meeting. The agenda for this meeting is available on the American Mensa website at <http://www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports> by clicking the dropdown “2014-03-29 – Charlotte, NC”.

Unfortunately, the agenda was provided 30 days prior to the meeting (per the relevant ASIEs (Actions Still In Effect, a.k.a. Policies)) and therefore was not available in time to post the information in your March newsletter, and the meeting may have come and gone by the time you read this column in your April newsletter. I did post this information on the Mensa Region 10 Facebook page, as well as the seven Region 10 Local Group Facebook pages I’m subscribed to, but offer my regrets to anyone who was interested in this information but was not connected through one of the active social media groups or the American Mensa Online Community (<http://community.us.mensa.org/forums>) As of March 1, we had 1,644 members yet to renew out of 4,153 members in our region. I hope that number is much smaller by the time the membership year ends on March 31, since your local group officers then have the task of reaching out to those who hadn’t renewed in time – referred to as “lapsed members”. Effective this year, local groups have a new tool available to them to help with that. LocSecs, Assistant LocSecs and Membership Officers will have the ability to look up contact information for lapsed members going back up to 10 years. This is a good volunteer opportunity for members who would like to help reach out to past members to have them rejoin your groups. If you’re interested, let your local leaders know.

Another volunteer opportunity is to join the Ombudsman team. Right now only half of the local groups in Region 10 have an ombudsman, and this position is recommended for all local groups in the minimum standard bylaws. It’s also recommended to have a Regional Ombudsman, but we’re short on that by one. Fortunately, from my discussions with the Region 10 local groups, the ombudsman is almost never called upon, because we generally get along better than most groups! So it would be a low-stress volunteer position. If any of you are interested in serving as your Local Group Ombudsman and they don’t have one (or the one they have wants to retire), please contact your Local Secretary to volunteer. And if you know someone you would like to recommend as Regional Ombudsman, let me know.

Thomas George Thomas
RVC10@us.mensa.org

Minutes of the March, 2014 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Wednesday, January 8th, 2014, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:10 pm.

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

Guests: George Patterson.

The minutes of the February, 2013 minutes were approved.

Officer/Committee Reports (*details may be found in the footnotes*):

Treasurer's report¹

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported February testing via email².

A NomElComm has been established to count the votes (if necessary) in the upcoming ExComm elections.

Dennis pointed out that SCAM very much needs a mission statement. His solicitation for suggestions in the last issue of the SCAM resulted in no responses. After much discussion, the ExComm decided that we really do need some kind of a mission statement otherwise our local group serves no purpose other than to perpetuate itself for no reason. American Mensa requires that members belong to a local group; however, if SCAM exists only to fill that need, we could easily revert to our former status as part of Central Florida Mensa. Readers of these minutes are urged to consider whether SCAM serves some function and to submit suggestions to any member of the ExComm or to *editor@scam.us.mensa.org*, otherwise the ExComm will seriously consider dissolving SCAM entirely.

It was proposed that we hold some sort of general meeting as an opportunity for members of SCAM to meet each other. After some discussion, the ExComm decided to hold the first general meeting on **Saturday, May 10th**, to coincide with the vote counting (*should it be necessary*), at the **CrossFire Deli & Grill** (located at the intersection of Wickham & Lake Washington roads in Melbourne: *http://crossfiredeli-grill.com*). There will be a speaker beginning at 6:00 pm with dinner commencing around 7:00 pm. The speaker we have engaged has a fascinating tale of the adventure of being incarcerated in a foreign prison. As further inducement to attend, our Recording Secretary (that would be myself) has generously offered to buy the first round of beer or wine for everyone. If you plan to attend this event, please RSVP to any ExComm officer

(Continued on page 20)