

The

SCAM

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Happy Valentine's Day!





SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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(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

This month, I will turn over part of my column to Hank Rhodes, Testing Coordinator for SCAM, who brings us the following message from the National Office:

“Beginning Jan. 1, 2011, American Mensa will release raw scores to candidates who test with American Mensa. Mensa will not provide an IQ or further interpretation or evaluation of the raw score. Instead, the “qualify” and “non-qualify” letters will direct our test-takers online, where they can interpret their raw scores to the equivalent IQ ranges. (Mensa will also provide a brochure regarding score self-interpretation upon request.)

Current members who tested between April 1, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2010, can request their scores at no charge. Lapsed members and past Offers of Membership will pay a \$15 fee for their score report, and Offers of Membership will receive a \$15 credit on their first dues payment with encouragement to join.

For further information, please contact the National Office at admissions@americanmensa.org or 888/294-8035 ext. 199.”

Speaking of membership, have you sent in your dues yet? If not, please take a moment to send in your 2011 membership

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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.

Unlike more typical car owners, my car ownership was episodic rather than continuous. I didn't go from my first car directly to my second car and from there to my third and forth and so on. I had many "first" cars.

My truly first car was a 1930's Packard. Two friends and I bought the car in the '40's in our last year of high school. The car was inoperable. We all worked on the mechanics and on the finish and appearance, but I was designated to fix the electrical system.

The wiring was in such bad shape; rotted insulation, broken and missing wires, corroded connections, and missing components, that I tore out all the wiring and rewired the whole car. The fix worked. I don't know if, as a result of that, that when I went on to

college I studied electrical engineering and that became my profession. It was on this car that the three of us taught ourselves to drive. We sold the car after our graduation as we each went our separate ways.

It was many years before I bought my second car. Living in New York, with its splendid public transportation, I had no need to own a car until 1954 when I went to work in Washington, D. C. All through college, a tour in the army, and in my post-college jobs in New York and a tour of work in Morocco, I did without my own car. Only when I moved to Washington, D. C did I have need for a

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SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 12/31/2010:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$338.78
Post Office Acct.	218.28
Reserve Fund	1618.16
RG Fund	1786.35

Total Funds Available:
\$3961.57

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$192.79
Interest Income	0.14
RG Food Reimbursement	42.39

Withdrawals

Postage	58.76
Printing	118.30
RG Expenses	150.00
Bank Fees	50.00
PO Annual Permit	185.00

Transfers

General to PO Acct.	200.00
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—Bud Long, Treasurer

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car because of the inadequate public transportation. I bought a used Studebaker, a 1950 Champion, the ugly one with the bullet front. It was ugly but it performed well, especially the hill holding feature.

I sold that car when I took a job in Athens, Greece in 1955. Cars were scarce in Greece at that time but I did manage to buy a used Lambretta scooter for my transportation to work and for weekend trips.

Before marrying in Athens in 1958, knowing my future wife, a Texan, who owned cars all her adult life and lived in a car-centered society, wouldn't take gladly to sitting on the back seat of a scooter, I sold the scooter and imported a Ford Consul from England. We used that car for the remainder of our time in Greece and sold it before we left in 1961.

Again, there was a hiatus in car ownership for me. Bouncing around the country looking for work I had no need for a car. We ended up in Los Angeles where a trolley car ride from our home to my office sufficed. I didn't own a car again until we moved to Japan in 1961.

A car wasn't a necessity for me there as I rode my bicycle to work every day at Tachikower AFB. For trips to Tokyo there were the excellent local trains. However, we did get a car for trips on weekends. It was a large Ford sedan that we bought from a returning GI. The car was so wide and the suburban streets so narrow we could barely drive it to our house. There was also the difficulty of driving a car with a left hand driving position in a country that drove on the left.

When we left Japan 1966, I was again without a car. I eventually secured another job in Washington, but had no need for a car as we lived in Georgetown and I worked near the White House. I walked to work.

Several years latter, after leaving Washington, I began working in Florida. I didn't immediately buy a car as I had use of a company car. In 1968, I did buy a new Chevrolet Camaro, a convertible. That '68 Camaro has been driven out to California and back to Florida twice because of job changes. I still have that car and, although retired, I use that car for my very limited driving.

I don't get all this brouhaha over terrorism, global warming, the sinking economy, unemployment, floods, famine, disease, drought, blight, crooked politicians, drunken celebrities, train wrecks, and other minor suchlike when what we really need to focus on is the impending advance of FROOD. And what, you may ask, is FROOD? Good question. FROOD is the acronym I've coined (patent pending) for Fruity Food. Yes, folks, this menace is subtly encroaching into every aspect of our culinary lives and will – if not stopped – soon destroy the comestible world as we know it.

As evidenced by my ever-expanding waistline, I love to eat. (I was forced to make an emergency evacuation from the beach just last week when some hoser pointed at me, yelled “thar she blows!” and started running after me with a long pointed stick.) I especially like good, solid comfort food. But there seems to be a trend for the producers of formerly dependable commodities to start experimenting with their goods, and not in a good way.

Take potato chips, for instance. Now here is one of the basic food groups without which civilization, as we know it, would be set back thousands of years. Ya take yer potato, slice it real thin, deep-fry it in some delightfully greasy oil, and then apply copious amounts of salt. Simple and delicious. For variety (or to enhance the dipping experience), you can do a fancy ruffle-cut on your potato. The more sophisticated palate might even opt for the avant-garde barbecue flavored chip. However, a quick trip down the snack aisle of any food store reveals a most disturbing development: FROOD flavored chips! I see things like lime (gads!), vinegar (horrors!), and dill pickle (gag!). A travesty of justice!

I fancy myself an aficionado of bagels. I've eaten some my-tee-fine bagels in my day. And we're not talking that pasty grocery store or Ye Olde Do-Nut Shoppe knock-off but a properly prepared boiled, then baked doughy delight. A proper bagel may be plain or pumpernickel or egg and may be enhanced with the addition of toppings such as onion, garlic, sesame or poppy seeds, or the increasingly popular “everything” bagel which includes all of these proper toppings. A bagel DOES NOT come in these flavors: sun-dried tomato, french toast, blueberry, apple cinnamon, honey wheat, maple nut, chocolate chip, or Cranberry Walnut Orange (!!!). These are deserts, people, not bagels. Similarly, the cream cheese one applies to one's

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bagel may be plain, onion, garlic, or even vegetable. Strawberry, blueberry, honey walnut, or any other fruit flavor should be added to cream cheese only under penalty of death.

Pizza: Possibly the most wholesome, nutritious, delectable American food ever. Personally, I prefer my pizza with that salty little fish that most people don't want to be in the same room with; however, I will make allowances for folks who lack my refined palate to opt out of ordering theirs with anchovies. Pepperoni, on the other hand, is absolutely required on pizza. Period. Other fine toppings for pizza are sausage, bacon, extra cheese, and even onions and mushrooms. Non-acceptable items, which are turning up all too frequently, include: artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes, eggplant, green peppers, squash, zucchini, avocado, and the absolute no-no – pineapple!

Fish, I am told, is very healthy for you. I happen to like fish. Fish can be broiled, baked, fried, blackened, or even raw (if fresh). Recipes for preparing fish are too numerous to enumerate, so I won't even try. I will, however, point out one tendency to be avoided at all costs: Don't FROOD-ify your fish! Mango chutney is an abomination to all things piscine. Lemon juice on your fish is fine; pineapple juice is not.

My favorite food in the entire universe: Thanksgiving meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and gravy. Triptophan nirvana! I could eat this meal 364 days of the year (gotta have a hamburger, though). Just about the most perfect combination of flavors ever invented. Ahhhhhh! But, inevitably, if one is not paying close attention, one finds on one's plate that dollop of sweet, red goo: cranberry sauce! Now, I'm told that were time travel possible, the number one destination is the time of Christ. Understandable, since he was arguably one of history's most influential characters. I, on the other hand, would travel directly to the time when the first person tried to glop that dollop on the Thanksgiving Day feast and KILL THEM TO DEATH, thus saving mankind from the most heinous crime ever perpetrated on the food world. No need to thank me. It's just the right thing to do.

Finally, we come to pinnacle of FROOD: Fruitcake. Need I say more?

For homework, I want everyone to write a 500 word essay on why fish tacos are just, plain wrong.

The George

SCAM Calendar of Events for February 2011

2nd—Wednesday 5:30 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. This month, it will be held at the home of George Patterson in Indialantic.

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

4th - Friday 5:30 PM

“HOOT LIKE AN OWL”

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

SNORT

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

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”. Also, we are putting together a current e-mail notification list of all members who wish to be kept up-to-date on our activities. If you wish to be included, please contact George Patterson at 777-3721 or George3141@cfl.rr.com.

Of CABBAGES and Coffee:

(Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: **Every Monday at Books-A-Million**, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

GO!: **Every Sunday at Books-A-Million**, Post Commons, Melbourne.
Host: *George Lebovitz, 259-3070, rokkitsci@cfl.rr.com*

Membership Notes for February 2011

WELCOME BACK!

Robert Gray
Larry Bishop

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>4th</i>	Dana Stetser	<i>17th</i>	Robert Lipton
<i>7th</i>	Heather Howard	<i>17th</i>	Robert Champion Jr
<i>8th</i>	Amy Montgomery	<i>25th</i>	Eric Rowley
<i>14th</i>	Wynn Rostek	<i>26th</i>	John Hall



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.**

It is a matter of psychology and has little to do with stock valuations. Whatever you have as an occupation or something else you do for a hobby you probably do well. At least well enough to keep your job or have fun with your hobby. That doesn't include golf. (joke) You are confident about what you do.

When I was an exchange member and floor trader I was known as a contrarian. When everyone was bullish I would be looking for the signal to sell. When the market was tanking I would be watching for a buying opportunity. At the end of the year I always had a nice profit by fading the crowd. They were always wrong.

Why was the crowd always wrong?

They wanted too much confirmation.

When a stock or market is at or near its lowest prices before it starts up there is fear of greater loss. It is the uncertainty that keeps the average investor and broker from realizing this is the place to buy. The herd is afraid and their fears feed upon each other not allowing them to make an intelligent decision.

I will not go into what the buy and sell signals are at this time.

When the outcome of a situation is unclear, uncertain or unknown every person hesitates to take action. No one likes to walk into a dark room especially if he has not been there before. He fumbles for the light switch.

When he can see where he is going he will advance. That is why brokers send out all those beautiful 4 color packets of information about companies. They are allaying the buying fear of the investor.

The more he thinks he knows the more likely he will part with his money to buy shares.

When the market was on its lows in March of 2009 after the horrendous break in 2008 there were few buyers. Members of the herd had been slaughtered, others wounded. Those remaining were fearful and refused to buy anything until they had confidence the market was going up again.

Today the little investor is buying. He is convinced the market is going higher and it is. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is up

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5,000 points and looks like the bull market is back again. The herd is happy as lemmings running toward the cliff.

The uncertainty has disappeared. Now is the time to buy. As a contrarian trader I am now watching for a place to sell and buy bear funds as I know there will be another market crash. When to do so has not yet shown. It will.

The sheeple are about to be shorn again; the lemmings will go over the cliff. Those who are contrarian investors will make money as the market slides into oblivion.

Have you become too confident? Too complacent? Be careful. These are dangerous times.

Al Thomas' new book, "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!", 3rd edition, Chapter Two shows in detail a method that made 400% during the 2000-2010 period with only 7 trades, no losses and paid no commission. Read the first chapter at <http://www.mutualfundmagic.com> and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know.

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Inside the Pocket Protector

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dues. I would also like to remind you that this is an excellent opportunity to check over your personal information to ensure that it is correct. As always you have the option to decide how much information you wish to make available to other Mensans; please be sure these options are set to reflect your desires.

Finally, the time is drawing near for ExComm elections. If you would like to play a leadership role, please feel free to do so. Remember, your ExComm and appointees, while serving for several years, will not be here forever.. Give it some thought. The future of SCAM may well depend on it.

I have often been accused by some of my conservative colleagues of, once supporting a candidate for office or a political party, never finding fault with that person or that party. Of course, I have no way of knowing whether that sentiment is shared among some of my readers. In 2008, I supported Barack Obama for President – and, given the choices in that election, I would still have voted for Obama. Does that mean Obama can do no wrong? Hardly.

In the December issue of *The SCAM*, I argued that tax cuts are bad politics. Continuing, and adding to, those tax cuts are also bad policy. I'm sure by now we are all aware that Obama and the 111th Congress chose to extend the tax cuts for everyone including the wealthiest 5% of the population. This is despite the fact that these cuts have done little, if anything, to bolster the economic circumstances for the average American.

The move did, however, help to reach half of the Tea Party's goals: lower taxes. The other half, a balanced budget, has now been rendered less attainable than before. Yet, that's not all. As I write these words, I have just received my first pay stub for 2011. In the message line, my coworkers and I are reminded by our employer that our payroll taxes (Social Security withholding) has been reduced by 2 percentage points. This brought back to mind Obama's claim that cutting the payroll tax will help "stimulate the economy".

For the past three decades, I have heard endless horror stories concerning the solvency of Social Security and of potential dire consequences once we Baby Boomers begin to retire. There was speculation as recently as last year that we needed to retire later in life and expect fewer benefits if there was to be hope of keeping Social Security solvent for future retirees. So, what happens? We reduce the money going into the fund! How is that going to help? In short, we've gone the opposite direction from where we needed to go. We would have done better to keep the tax rate the same, but remove the income cap so that all earnings would have been taxed.

If I were to use this column to send a message to President Obama, my message would go something like this: "Mr. President, where has your head been lately? I surely do hope you're

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receiving some mental health attention, as your recent policy moves do indicate to me that some such attention would be in order. I certainly pray for a rapid and complete recovery, as we desperately need the leader we elected back in 2008. Once your health has been restored, please remember your mandate to the people who supported and elected you; you need to be there for every working American, even when it's not politically expedient. Be the President that I, and millions of fellow citizens who supported you, expected you to be."

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*.

Sometimes I try to imagine what Mensa will look like in 10, 20 or 50 years. There are a number of interesting “what if” questions to ponder, and of course one of the things national leadership needs to do is to anticipate the future so that we can plan it. Not just plan “for” the future, but actually plan the future.

Mensa has a structure that has served us well, but which may no longer serve us as well in the future. For example, I’ve long said the best part of Mensa is the local groups, but will that always be the case? Younger Mensans tend to connect with their Mensa friends on-line and plan events spur-of-the moment. As they become the majority within Mensa, will there be less of a reliance on local groups to plan events and more of a move to spontaneously do whatever someone decides to organize at the last minute?

In the early days of Mensa, the only real way to get news about the organization and its events was through print media: The Bulletin and local group newsletters. Now, if I want to know what events are going on anywhere in the region, I’m far more likely to find the local calendar on-line than I am to reach for the latest hard copy of the newsletter. But as more and more people turn to the Web for their information, and as more and more information gets posted on the Web, will we reach a point at which we no longer need the Bulletin? A big part of me hopes not; I enjoy reading the Bulletin and our editor, Roger, does a great job.

What will our age demographic be in the future? At one time, the so-called “graying of Mensa” was widely harped as a concern; that Mensa was attracting few young people and would eventually die out as the members became older and older. Today, I doubt anyone would take that concern seriously, but at one time it appeared semi-plausible. And it’s interesting to wonder, in ten or twenty or fifty years, what will an RG or an AG look like? Will the hospitality suite be nothing but a sea of gray, as far as the eye can see? Or will the balance shift toward younger members? What services will we need to provide to all members of all ages? And, more to the point, how will we continue to attract members of all ages?

I don’t know what the future holds; I’ve given up trying to predict what I’ll have for breakfast tomorrow. But the future is coming, and we need to anticipate it.

Mel

Minutes of the December ExComm Meeting.

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, January 6, 2011. Called to order at 5:36 pm by LocSec George Patterson. Attendees: ExComm members George Patterson, Karen Freiberg, Terry Valek, and Joe Smith. Bud Long was unable to attend. Welcome Guests: None

Minutes for the December 8, 2010 meeting were approved as published in the January 2011 SCAM.

LocSec Report: George had no formal report, but remarked that it seemed appropriate at the start of a new year that all the officers issue some sort of a report regarding their ExComm activities over the past year or so and their thoughts on what might be accomplished during our current term. He said he would write and distribute his thoughts well before the next meeting to encourage the others to do the same. He would solicit reports of a sort from the committees -- his "or so", "sort of", and "of a sort" being deliberately vague. That said, he reminded everyone that we needed to appoint a NomEl-Comm at the next meeting. He rehearsed the upcoming election schedule which was, to wit, a call for candidates in the March newsletter, candidates statements, and more exhortations in April (and possibly May) and the ballot, voting, and vote counting event in May, with "induction" of the "new" ExComm in June.

Treasurer: Bud submitted the Treasurer's Reports via email for December. It showed a final balance of \$3,961.57. The books were closed on the RG account.

Testing: No test was scheduled for December. A test was scheduled for January 15 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

There was no new or old business, but it was determined that all present thought that the picnics that the ExComm sponsored in 2008 and 2009 were successful and that we should make plans for another this spring; details to be worked out at the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03.

The next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 5:30 pm.