

The

SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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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

Merry Christmas to everyone. As this year comes to a close, there are just a few items.

The Monthly Get-Together will NOT meet for December, and is expected to resume in January.

Likewise, the Trivia event is now on hold. It seems we were preempted by football season. We are actively seeking alternate arrangements.

However, this month, we will have a “Pointless Dinner” in Titusville. Please see the calendar for more details.

As a reminder, *The SCAM* is still seeking a new Editor. I do intend to retire at the end of the current ExComm term.

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 was just at my dentist's house, my Amish dentist's house and I was reminded, once more, why I so desperately needed to find another way to satisfy my needs. I had to keep peace at home and still stay within my miniscule budget.

With all costs sky-rocketing and only my dismal monthly income remaining stagnant, I was well aware that I might, once again, be in need of his services. I had mentioned the fact to my dear wife, only yesterday, that I could use some dental maintenance. Her words of advice (orders) were to stay away from the Amish man. But, he was cheap. I could very well afford to pay his strictly-voluntary fee.

I was hoping that he didn't see me staring at his fingernails or, more properly, underneath his un-manicured fingernails. There had to be at least a shovelful of unidentified debris under each nail. I wondered if it was the same stuff that had been there two years ago when I last used his services. It looked the same. Was it revolving debris that changed texture and substance each day or each week or was it semi-permanent debris that stayed and putrefied and petrified until an accident took his nail or entire finger to that everlasting Amish place in the sky?

I was taken back to that night on his kitchen table, remembering how, with what felt like both hands in my mouth at once up to his elbows, I tried to answer a question.

I thought it had to be the fact that not only was my mouth numb but my entire face as well or else I was sure I would have known the answer. I was playing 'Name That Mysterious Taste'. There was a certain feeling of *deja vu* like I should have recognized the taste from previous experience or maybe it was only related to a smell, a farm smell.

Either way, with my mouth then pried open into a permanent, drooling, idiotic grin and having that enigma indelibly printed on my brain I knew I would have the rest of my life to figure it out. I haven't yet but every time I get close to a dairy farm the feeling returns with a slight sense of nausea. My feeling is that it is a combination of tastes and smells that my brain does not have the capacity or desire to identify. Maybe it's best that I forget the Amish man.

Maybe I should just make an appointment with a qualified dentist then mortgage the house to make payments. Maybe I should listen to reason but then....he is cheap.

Ah, the perfect cup of coffee! We can all dream of that. But of what does it consist? Before we get into the aesthetics, we need to cover the basics.

The final cup of coffee is the result of several factors, primary among them are the bean, the growing area, the conditions of growth, the blending, the roasting, the grinding, the flavoring, the brewing, and the serving.

Little is known about the origins of coffee as an edible. Our word, coffee, comes from the Turkish *kaveh* which in turn comes from the Arabic qahwah which, some say, originally meant "wine".

There is some logic to this supposition as Muslims are not allowed to drink wine and coffee may be the most intoxicating drink permitted.

"Coffee" is one of those universal words. From the original Arabic it has become *café* in French, Portuguese, and Spanish, *Kaffee* in German, *koffie* in Dutch, *caffè* in Italian, *kaffès* in Greek, *kofeh* in Hebrew, *kohii* in Japanese, and *kafei* in Chinese. "Coffee" will get you a cup of Joe almost anywhere.

Coffee probably originated in what is present day Ethiopia. The coffee bush, *Coffea arabica*, grows wild there. Two other species of coffee, *C. robusta*, which originated in the Congo and *C. liberica*, which originated in Liberia are also grown commercially. There are several other coffee species which are not important commercially. Coffee is now grown in a world wide band between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer.

C. arabica is the most expensive, and to most people, the best and most preferred. *C. robusta* beans have about twice as much caffeine as *C. arabica* beans, thus most decaffeinated coffees are made of *C. robusta*. The manufacturers of decaffeinated coffees get a double benefit by using *C. robusta*, the beans are less costly and they have more caffeine to sell to the cola companies.





(Continued on page 11)

Our Regular Events:

- **C.A.B.A.G.E.:** Food Court at the Merritt Square Mall. Every Monday at 6pm. *Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636.*
- **GO!:** Books-A-Million, The Avenue, Viera. Every Saturday at 1pm. Hosted by the Space Coast Area GO Association. Contact George Lebovitz for more info: the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com.

December 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			2	3		5 GO!
6	7 C.A.B.A.G.E.	8	9		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	31		

SCAM Calendar of Events for December 2015

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.*

EXCOMM MEETING

Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

10th - Thursday 6:00 PM

POINTLESS DINNER

VietRiver Restaurant, 1817 Washington Ave., Titusville. Serving tradition soup and noodles dishes, plus cocktails in bright, relaxed digs.

Hosted by: *Charles Radley, 1-360-773-2595 (cell).*

MENSA TESTING

No testing is scheduled for this month. Testing will resume next month. Please check the January issue for the testing date.

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

26th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.I.

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, 474-4075 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".

Membership Notes for December 2015

WELCOME TO SCAM

Paul Bisson

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Ryan Coennen

Douglas Tuttle

WELCOME BACK!

Gerald Egleson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Terry Valek	11th	Jim Lee Fitzgerald
5th	Paul Bisson	16th	Christopher Glass
6th	Gabe Green	30th	Travis Elmore
7th	Michael Cooper		
9th	Roberta Brock		



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.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST
FOR
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for
SCAM submittal guidelines.

I **imagine** if I had lived in Florida all my life, I might feel differently, but to someone who spent his entire life in the northern states, Christmas just does not feel like Christmas here in Florida. We still do all the same activities, but it seems far and away from the wintery Christmas's of the great white north. It's not that I miss the snow or the cold, because I really, REALLY, don't miss it at all. I think what I am referring to is more of an existential experience of being out of synch with the past. My wife and I have celebrated every Florida Christmas with all the windows open and the beginnings of our annual cool down. We have waded on the beach on several Christmas's; a polar opposite to Christmas's past that were literally more like a polar experience in Wisconsin or upstate New York. There we usually spent Christmas around a fireplace and watching the snow flurries blowing outside frosty windows.

Most of my family is spread out over upstate New York these days and I must admit, I really do enjoy rubbing it in when I get the chance. "Hi, just wanted to give a call to wish you guys a Merry Christmas! How ya been? Great! Great! How's the weather? Hmm. Sorry to hear that...(not) Oh well, down here we are thinking about going to the beach. Yep, it's 74 degrees and sunny. We've got all the windows open and just a cool sea breeze blowing through. Absolutely perfect. Sure, come down anytime. You're always welcome."

I came to Florida to escape the cold and ice of the North. My business exists mostly in computers so it really doesn't matter where I live as long as I have access to the Internet. So, after one particularly cold Wisconsin winter a few years back, I had a bellyful of northern weather and made it my goal to never, ever, spend another freezing winter in the north. So here I am, having met my goal and now I guess my only regret is Christmas doesn't quite feel right to me anymore. Well I guess our lighted palm trees, surfing Santas and decorated boat parades at Christmas sure beat the ice, snow and cold up north. So, Merry Christmas to all members of Space Coast Area Mensa...I hope you all have a perfect Christmas here in balmy central Florida!

This month, there is no RVC column. "The Tenth Story" will resume in next month's issue.

Minutes of the November, 2015 ExComm Meeting

Minutes to this meeting were NOT available at the time of publication. They will appear in next month's issue.

COFFEE I**Continued.**

(Continued from page 5)

C. liberica has the largest bean but is little used. *C. Arabica* grows best at altitudes above 2000 feet. *C. robusta* and *C. liberica* do best at the lower altitudes.

Because of the price difference, most of the coffee sold is *C. robusta* either by itself or blended with *C. arabica*. If the coffee you buy is pure *C. arabica* it is almost certain to say so on the package.

There are legends that local goatherds noticed that their goats became frisky when browsing among the coffee bushes. From there coffee went to the local monks who chewed on the beans to keep them awake for the mid-night prayers and to dervishes who used it to help in their whirling devotions.

From Harrar in Ethiopia, where it was first cultivated, coffee traveled across the Red Sea to Yemen and from Yemen to Arabia and the rest of the world. Mocha was once a major seaport in Yemen. Coffee distributed from there acquired the name of the port which became the designation of coffee sent from there. Java is a land that grows much coffee and designates coffee sourced from there. W. C. Fields, in several of his films, would order Mocha-Java as his coffee. It was a popular and expensive blend at the time. As is said, the rest is history.

History does tell us that the first coffee houses opened in Constantinople in 1554. From there the use of coffee spread to the rest of western world. Coffee houses opened in Italy in 1580, Persia in 1620, Oxford in 1650, Marseilles in 1671, Paris in 1672, and Vienna in 1683. The Paris café, *Pocope*, opened in 1686.