



Everyone Deserves a Vacation ...

Anonymous

Because my husband and I will be attending a wedding reception in California on November 2nd, we thought we would fly to Hawai'i for a few days afterwards rather than coming straight home to Florida. We thought we would try to catch a cheap flight, find a hovel near the beach in which to sleep, and walk to the water to snorkel every day.

Are you laughing yet at our joint naivete? We have first class tickets directly from California to Maui (the only time either of us have ever gone first class before was when I was flying stand-by as a kid). Instead of a hovel for a few days, we have somehow talked ourselves into reservations at an expensive resort for 12 nights.

Because the resort charges \$15/hour to rent snorkel gear, as a budgeting step we have invested in snorkel masks (\$90 per mask), fins (\$70 per person), an underwater video camera, mounts for the video camera, underwater walkie-talkies for use on the snorkel gear -- not to mention new swimsuits, new flip-flops, new baggage (carry-on and checkable).

I won't embarrass myself by continuing. Suffice to say that coming straight home to Florida after the California wedding reception would have eaten into considerably less of our life savings. But we will have garnered a lot of equipment that will be very useful in our swimming pool ... 🍌

Editor's Note – having promised to run this tale of woe (Hawai'i? Poor souls!), I tagged it as "anonymous" to shield the writer from ridicule ...

It is in the SCAM blackmail queue ...

Mensa Voucher Program Overview

The 2019 program runs from Sept. 3, until Dec. 31.

Each Local Group will have one unique code, which will be emailed to each member of the Local Group. The discount code should be given to a non-member who may, at no cost, either submit prior evidence or sit for a supervised test. 🍌

American Mensa Committee Highlights ...

Thomas G. Thomas

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met on September 6-7 at the National Headquarters in Arlington, Texas. Saturday was our regular quarterly meeting, where we conducted business including reports from our Treasurer Taz Criss (with an investment presentation from Frost Investments) and our Executive Director Trevor Mitchell (with reports from each of the national office department heads). Along with approving new national appointments, we approved three motions (clarifying the AG policy on Speaker Compensation, updating the AML Investment Fund Policy, and disbanding the Local Group Logistics team).

I'd like to congratulate Brian Reeves of Palm Beach Area Mensa for his appointment as National Advocate, taking over the role from Elissa Rudolph (coincidentally also from Palm Beach Area Mensa). That means that there's now an opening for Region 10 Ombudsman, so I'm looking for candidates. If you are interested in the position, please let me know.

September is also when we hold our annual planning session. Starting from our current financial and marketing status, plus member demographics (along with known strengths and challenges), we brainstormed ideas for setting the 2020-2025 strategy, and the results will be compiled for our next planning meeting. 🍌



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Cape Canaveral Schedule

Pegasus XL | Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON)

Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems
Wed, Oct 9th, 2019, TBD
Air launch to orbit

Falcon 9 Block 5 | Starlink 2

SpaceX
Wed, Oct 16th, 2019, TBD

Atlas V N22 | CST-100 Starliner Orbital Flight Test (Uncrewed)

United Launch Alliance
Sun, Oct 27th, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | SXM-7

SpaceX
Thu, Oct 31st, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | ANASIS-II

SpaceX
Thu, Oct 31st, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | Starlink 3

SpaceX
Sun, Nov 3rd, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | SpX CRS-19

SpaceX
Tue, Dec 3rd, 2019, TBD

The Weekly Brainwave

Excerpt > 09-17

Much of the credit for the turtleneck's subsequent popularity can be attributed to British playwright Noël Coward, who regularly sported one for a period in his 1920's heyday. Though he said his adoption of the garment was primarily for reasons of comfort, it became a trademark that immediately suggested a disdain for convention. In any case, it caught on – in no small part due to its risqué possibilities.

The tirelessly androgynous actress Marlene Dietrich relished the turtleneck, pairing one with a baggy, masculine suit and a knowing grin in an early 1930s publicity photograph. Writer Evelyn Waugh, meanwhile, believed it to be “most convenient for lechery, because it dispenses with all unromantic gadgets like studs and ties.”

But the turtleneck's moment of true glory did not

SCAM ExComm Candidate Statements

Jim Fitzgerald – I retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years. I was a Chief in the field of Electronic Warfare. I currently work at KSC where I am the Lead Systems Architect, Lead Systems Engineer, Operations Manager, DCIM Manager and Facility Manager for the Kennedy Space Center Data Center. I have only two goals for the local Mensa chapter; 1) Increase membership and participation [okay, that could be construed as two goals] and 2) Launch a “Brain Collective”, similar to the Borg, where the membership applies their higher intelligence to solving problems that are both difficult and vast. I enjoy geocaching, escape rooms and photography. I have been married to my wife Eileen for 28 years and we have yet to have an argument.

George Rasley – Over a career spanning 40 years George Rasley has served in government positions from City Hall to the White House. A veteran of more than 300 political campaigns, he served as Special Assistant for Domestic Policy for Vice President Dan Quayle, as Assistant Director of the National Park Service, as Director of Policy and Communication for former Congressman Adam Putnam (FL-12) then Vice Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, and as spokesman for Rep. Mac Thornberry former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Rasley is a 1974 graduate of Hanover College, attended Harlaxton College, Grantham, Lincs. UK and studied international law at Worcester College, Oxford University.

Wynn Rostek – I’ve been SCAM LocSec twice before. I’ve also served in a variety local, regional, and national positions.

Val Valek – Hi. I’m Val and I’m running for ExComm. I’d like to reprise my role as treasurer of SCAM. Please vote for me, or any other candidate. What the hell: throw your hat into the ring and help SCAM out!

Elizabeth (Libby) Wilder – A little bit about me: I have a diverse background in both business and social services. I am a retired Licensed Mental Health Counselor. I practiced at the Family Counseling Center in Rockledge from 2005 through 2013. Prior to that I worked with the severely mentally ill in Fairfax, VA. Before making that major career change, I was Director, Financial Systems at a multi-billion

dollar financial institution. I won’t go back further than that as there is a limit to how long this statement is meant to be. Regarding education, I have a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Psychology (Counseling concentration). When I attended the organizational meeting of SCAM, I realized that the chapter was on the brink of dissolution. It took this crisis for me to realize that SCAM is important to me although, admittedly, I have not previously been an active member. I think perhaps I am not unusual in this respect. Mensans are a diverse lot; some members are active participants, some are occasional participants, and some prefer to not participate except perhaps on rare occasions. However, I think we all see the value in having a local chapter. 🍌

Election Ballot Submission

To make sure your ballot is counted, write your member number above your return address on the envelope in which you place your folded ballot.

Address the envelope to:

SCAM NomElCom

Gregg Wiggins

2186 Highway A1A, Apt. A-3

Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937-4927

Do not vote for more than 4 candidates. Return your ballot no later than November 30, 2019.

VOTING IS AN IMPORTANT INTERACTION!

Upcoming Events

MENSA Testing – Saturday, Oct. 19th

Games Night – Tuesday, Oct. 8th at 6:30pm

SNORT – Saturday, Oct. 26th at 5:15pm



Space Coast Area Mensa Group

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Rockledge, FL 32955

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arrive until the end of World War II, when the post-occupation cultural renaissance of Paris made it a must-have for aspirant existentialists the world over. The garment became associated with the glamorous writers, artists, musicians, and film stars affiliated with the city: Juliette Greco, Yves Montand, Jacques Brel, and Miles Davis, to name a few. Audrey Hepburn notably co-opted the look in the Paris-set 1957 Fred Astaire vehicle *Funny Face*, and where Hepburn went, other Hollywood stars followed.

More importantly still, the French correlations – moody, chic, deeply serious – earned the turtleneck an underground credibility in the U.S. in the 1950's. Over the next two decades, everyone from Lou Reed and Joan Didion to Eldridge Cleaver and Gloria Steinem was pictured wearing one.

Bob Dylan was rarely seen without one in his so-called “Electric Period” of 1965–66. That same decade, Andy Warhol adopted the black turtleneck as his signature look, pairing it with shades and a floppy wig. It was arguably the most effective makeover in art history; his pre-fame attire consisted of preppy suits and ties. 🍀

Just Meandering By ...

The Editor

Elections are easy to overlook ...

“I know what the result will be ...”

“No candidate interests me ...”

“No one listens to me anyway ...”

Get your head in the game - no one cares what you say/do, if you don't say/do ANYTHING ...

Organizations live because of the breath that YOU provide, the focus that YOU bring ...

Bring it!

SCAM, SCAM, SCAM!!! 🍀

