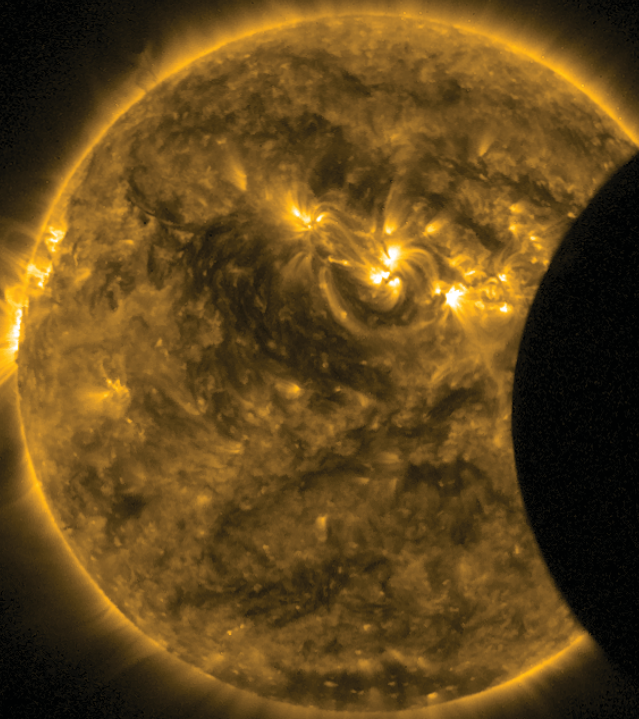


THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

BROADCAST

Vol. 23, No. 8 August 2017

<http://frenchbroad.us.mensa.org>



Prepare!

The End is Nigh!

(Compliments of French Broad Mensa)

From the Grand Poobah...

I am planning a trip to help an old friend build a new garage, and will be passing several White Castle locations. Yes, THOSE White Castles, home of the original "slider." This thought morphs into anger/disgust as I consider the co-opting of the term, and perverting the original definition of sliders. The burger was so named due to its effect upon the digestive tract of the consumer. Today, we have all manner of TV hostesses labeling their tuna/feta mini-burger a slider. Why? Because the "personality" lacks the creativity to name a small sandwich anything but a slider.



Which brings me to "guys." There exists on this very planet a variety of females that seem to think they can refer to their female friends as "guys." Wrong. Incorrect. Guess again. The term is reserved for groups of males. If I told my wife I was "going out with the guys," what sort of reaction would I get if those "guys" were actually a group of attention-starved models from Hornytopia? We have language rules and definitions for a reason. Use them.

News that makes me nervous: Our Editor, Michael Havelin, has expressed his desire to pass the quill to a successor, and as of this printing, nobody is waiting in the wings. We are extending an invitation to anyone in FBM who would like to enhance, delete, slash-and-burn or otherwise take-up the mantle of editor. There are a number of perks that come with the job, none of which are worth repeating. Contact anyone on the Executive Committee or Michael for misleading information. 📧

2017-7-8 ExCom Meeting Minutes

Committee members in attendance were Bob, Nel and John, constituting a quorum.

1st item of discussion: The Twitter account has been idle for several months, and will be administered by the same person that tends the Facebook page.

2nd item: Michael Havelin is ready to relinquish the editorship of the newsletter. He will train and assist the new editor as necessary.

3rd: Discussion concerning a group event to observe the upcoming solar eclipse. It was decided that it would be easier to herd cats.

4th: Calendar items were discussed and added/modified.

Submitted by John Federspiel

Sincere thanks to the volunteers who participated in the Riverwatch trash pickup on Saturday, July 8th. Sandy and Wayne were not able to partake of the free lunch (yes, it does exist), yet labored nonetheless. Bob, Michael, Will and John all wore snazzy plastic day-glo vests and picked up other people's trash. Yeah, you missed it, but we'll do it again in three months. (FREE LUNCH!) 📧

Editorial Mutterings

It's the end of the world, folks. Finally! I've been waiting for this, but I thought it might be caused by something other than The Cosmos Itself.

I hate to see us go, but at least it'll mean the end of paying taxes. (You sometimes have to look for the positive in otherwise negative situations.)

And, to wax political, I must also mention that it means the end of the current administration (Of course, they probably don't believe in it anyway.)

Maybe it's not the actual official "real" End of the World. Maybe it's a false alarm, like in Mark Twain's *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Could be. Maybe it's a Russian plot. We've been snookered before, haven't we?

I've seen one other total solar eclipse. That was when I was in college way back when. That means I get to see two eclipsifim in one lifetime. Pretty cool, eh? (My "appypolly loggies" (thank you, Anthony Burgess) to the word freaks and English teachers in the crowd; I'm not sure of the correct pluralization - it could be eclipsises or eclipsi).

In any event, enjoy the show. French Broad Mensa will try to put a viewing event together, but it's going to be very crowded down toward Silva where the eclipse will be complete. In Asheville, it'll only be about a mostly percentage.

Your Soon-to-be-Eclipsed Editor,
The Michael

I guess it's time for me to ask: Does anyone want to take this largely thankless editor job over? It used to be fun, but I've about had it. Ten years and my youth has flown. Where are our volunteers? Do I need to equate member participation with "hen's teeth." I doubt it.



August 21, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Across the United States



On Monday, August 21, 2017, the contiguous United States will experience the first total solar eclipse since February 1979. The Moon's approximately 70-mile wide umbral shadow will travel across the U.S. at an average speed of 2,300 miles per hour (the Moon's approximate orbital speed) passing through 14 states, beginning on the Oregon coast and leaving the U.S. near Charleston, SC at approximately 2:49 p.m. EDT. That's just over 90 minutes after making contact on the Oregon coast!



The Path of Totality in Our Region

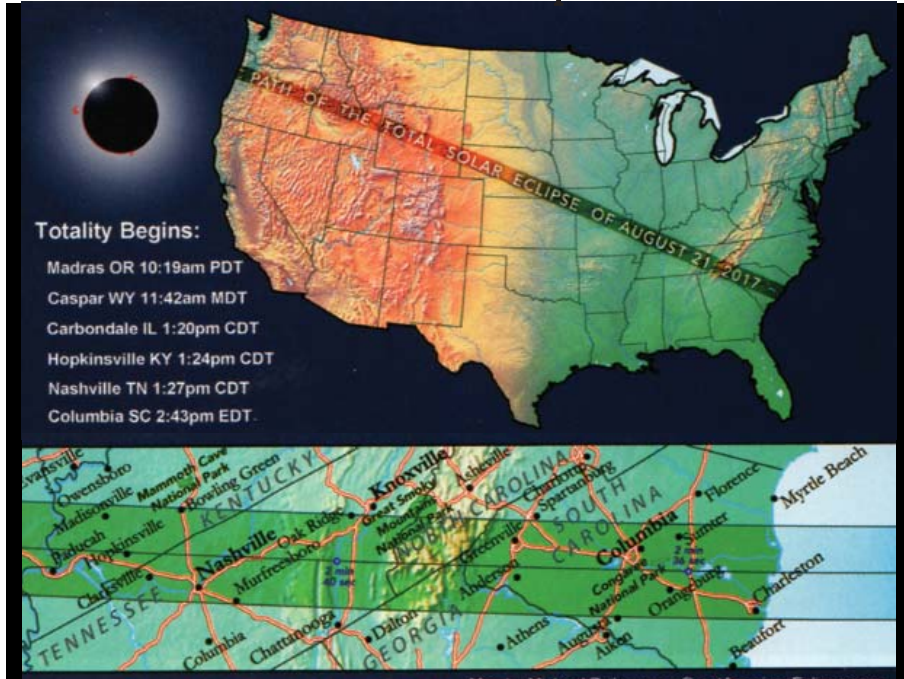
Asheville, NC is just north of the 71 mile wide path of totality. Rather than a total solar eclipse, Asheville will experience a 99% partial solar eclipse. That 99% partial eclipse sounds very impressive, but it is very different than a 100% total eclipse. You will regret not taking the short ride to get under the shadow of the moon where totality occurs!

The difference between a 99% eclipse and a total eclipse is very dramatic. Only during a total solar eclipse will you experience:

1. Noticeable drop in temperatures
2. Daytime turning into darkness
3. Views of the stars, constellations and planets during daylight hours!
4. A view of the Sun's outer atmosphere (the Corona) splashed around the eclipsed Sun

Info on this page is from **The Astronomy Club of Asheville.**
<http://www.astroasheville.org/2017-total-solar-eclipse/>

USA Path of the August 21, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse



To watch an animated video flyover of the eclipse's path across the USA, check this site out:
<https://vimeo.com/73595112>

Sarah Frye

Winner of the local Dianna Mossip Memorial Scholarship worth \$600. Sarah attends Asheville High School.



KEEP IT PALATABLE

Submitted by Mike Korstange

"Chicken Scratches", witty, whimsical, unpretentious; "Mutterings", not so much! The back cover of Broadcast, suggests that it is the official newsletter of French Broad Mensa Group and yet our editor has taken liberty, in the July issue, to thrust upon its readers his personal, political diatribe against the sitting President of the United States.

First, he has failed to follow his own standard expressed in his opening statement of the June issue that the editor is, "not supposed to be political".

Then, he completely violates his own conditions for publication, as stated in the Boilerplate of every issue, that articles, letters, comments, etc. contain "no personal attacks".

Finally, he has espoused a line of thinking that I can say with certainty does not speak for the whole of the French Broad Mensa Group. While the editor has his right of free speech, it should not be published in a way that the casual observer of Broadcast, might infer that these are the feelings of the entire group.

For the sake of argument, let's have a section of Broadcast set aside for political discourse where civil conversation and discussion can better enlighten and leave the "mutterings" to silent contemplation.

Editor's Note: Well, I have finally gotten a rise and response from someone with BROADCAST. I'd given up hope. There have been perhaps two responses from readers over the 10 years I've been editor.

I have been called out by Mr. Korstange for my political diatribe (there are no quotes here because that's exactly what it was) in July's "Muttering," and for violating my own stated "Boilerplate." Here's a pertinent Boilerplate quote: "Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily Mensa's or the Editor's."

Although this is the "official newsletter of French Broad Mensa" as stated on the back cover, my "Muttering" definitely DOES NOT represent the group's position on anything. They are my own opinions, not the group's. Mensa, as an organization, takes no position on any issue.

So... thank you, Mr. Korstange, for your input, reproduced here verbatim. (That previous sentence was heartfelt, and not meant to be sarcastic.) I appreciate your calling attention to my work, even though you may disagree with my sentiments. We are individuals; neither of us speaks for Mensa as a whole.

Mr. Korstange, feel free to contact our Ombudsperson Grace Lehto and make a formal complaint if you think it's necessary.



***French Broad Mensa
August 2017 Events Calendar***

NOTE: RSVPs are important for table planning. Please RSVP if you plan to attend an event. If you don't RSVP to the contact person, we may not be able to seat you. Preference goes to RSVPs.

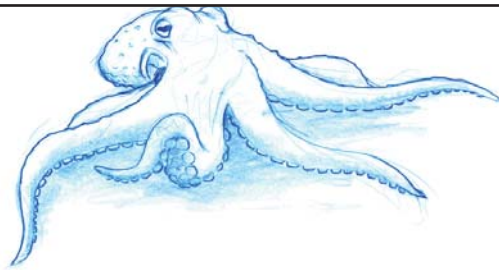
Sat. August 1, 6pm - ExCom at Phil's BBQ, 701 NC Hwy 9, Black Mt.
Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net.

Fri, August 4, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at Ay Caramba, 801 Fairview Road in the Oakley area. Details will be furnished later in a reminder e-mail to members. Contact: Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone 828-298-1707.

Mon, August 14 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave., Asheville. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact: Will McGuffin, 828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net. (*John Federspiel's 63rd birthday - SHHHH - Don't let him know we know... but he told me himself. MFH*)

Mon, Aug 21 - Total Eclipse of the Sun - ExCom tried to come up with a group something, but people had already made plans. Y'all on y'own.

Thurs, August 24, 5:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Que Sera, 101 Black Mountain Ave, Black Mountain NC 28803, (828) 664-9472. The early time is to take advantage of their \$1 per oyster deal from 5-7pm. Contact: Michael Havelin, 828-712-5570 or michael@michael-havelin.com



Interest is building (four people so far) for a book club devoted to "thought" books rather than fiction; books about everything from sociology to astronomy and physics are what I have in mind. We could meet once a month at some mutually agreed upon venue? Suggestions and ideas are welcome. If interested, give me a call at 828-575-2877 or send me an email at gracelehto@yahoo.com.

Trivial Report

by Wayne Stanko

There were ten **Whoos** playing Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in July, including Pat's daughter Jen who was visiting from New Orleans. We played against 19 teams. The category for the first round was villains.

1. Who is Sherlock Holmes' arch enemy?
2. What role did Lee Van Cleef play in the movie *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*?
3. What is the name of the villain in *Oliver Twist*?
4. Who starred in the movie *Oh God, You Devil*?
5. Who tried to make Desdemona's virtue change to pitch?
6. Party leader O'Brien was watching Winston in what novel?
7. Who said, "The richest guy I know would trade it all for a little more?"
8. Who wrote a novel about the Snopes clan?
9. Who controlled the ivory trade in the movie *Heart of Darkness*?
10. What Bond villain tried to bomb Fort Knox?
11. In what 1992 Quentin Tarantino movie did the villain slice off a cop's ear while the song *In the Middle with You* played?

We got 10 of 11 correct and tied for second place, two points behind the leader.

The theme for the second round was first ladies.

1. Who was first lady for 12 years and 39 days?
2. All first ladies have franking privilege. What is it?
3. What 1929 first lady got a degree in geology in 1898?
4. In 1809, who was the first first lady to attend an inaugural ball?
5. Who belonged to the Young Republican club at Wellesley in the 1960s.
6. Who said on the TV show *60 Minutes* that she feared for her daughter Susan?
7. Who bought a radio station in Austin, Texas in the 1940s?
8. Which first lady's maiden name was Pierce and was a distant relative of President Pierce?
9. What was Jackie Kennedy's maiden name?
10. Who was born on St. Patrick's Eve and taught shorthand?
11. What future first Lady dated Stephen Douglas?

We again answered 10 of 11 correctly. We dropped to fourth place, three points behind.

The third round is the speed round. We had 5 minutes to answer a sheet of questions. It goes too fast to take good notes. One part wanted to know the first names of famous people or characters. Some examples:

Pulitzer (Joseph), Citizen Cane (Charles), and Lipton (Thomas). We fell to eighth place, six points behind.

The theme for the fourth round is always potpourri,

1. Who was the first woman to appear on the cover of *Time* magazine?
2. What baseball mascot dresses in a green costume?
3. What symbol after the serial number on currency indicates it is a replacement?
4. In 1988 who was the first rock group to play a nine night stand at Madison Square Garden?
5. What famous road goes from Chicago to Santa Monica, California?
6. The buccula is what prominent feature on a person's face?
7. President Clinton called what Asian country the biggest nuclear threat?
8. What mystery author lived in a dorm at the University of Virginia?
9. What magical duo was 2/3 of the Asparagus Valley Cultural Society?
10. What is a 1250 foot tall natural feature in Wyoming?

We finished in sixth place, 8 points behind.

Answers:

1st round: 1. Moriarity, 2. Bad (Wayne), 3. Bill Sykes (Jan), 4. George Burns (Robert), 5. Iago (Pat), 6. 1984 (Michael), 7. Mr. Burns from *The Simpsons*, 8. Faulkner (Pat), 9. Colonel Kurtz (John), 10. Goldfinger, 11. *Reservoir Dogs* (Jen).

2nd Round: 1. Eleanor Roosevelt, 2. Free postage (Wayne), 3. Clare Hoover (Robert), 4. Dolly Madison, 5. Hillary Clinton, 6. Betty Ford, 7. Ladybird Johnson, 8. Barbara Bush, 9. Bouvier, 10. Pat Nixon (Wayne), 11. Mary Todd Lincoln.

4th Round: 1. Virgin Mary, 2. Philly Phanatic, 3. Star, 4. Grateful Dead, 5. Route 66 (Jen), 6. Chin, 7. North Korea, 8. Poe (Pat), 9. Penn and Teller, 10. Devil's Tower.

NEW! EVENTS CALENDAR ON FACEBOOK

Join our Facebook Group and get individual invitations to each event. While signed into Facebook, simply go to French Broad Mensa's page, click GROUPS in the banner, then choose JOIN on the radio button that pops up. That's all there is to it! You'll get an invitation on your Facebook page each time a new event is posted to the calendar.

Click "GOING" or "NOT SURE" on an event, and you'll even get a Facebook reminder the day before. A very handy tool for the forgetful – and who doesn't suffer an occasional bout of Absent-Minded Professor Syndrome?

Financial Report for June 2017

Beginning Balance: \$3804.90

Income:

American Mensa Contrib 6/16/17: \$ 102.85

Expenses:

None..... \$ 0.0

Closing balance..... \$3907.75

Submitted by Bob Bouvier Treasurer

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Dear Gabbie,

With the end of the world nigh (whatever that means), I'm wondering what I should pack for the occasion. Something formal perhaps? Or a casual ensemble? Should I bring a light lunch? For how many?

Always Decked Out

Dear Decked...

I think you're missing the point.

Gabbie

Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST editor.



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BOILERPLATE: Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Original (!) material is welcome. Editor reserves right to refuse publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning is retained. No personal attacks. Email submissions, with a subject line, to Editor at michael@michaelhavelin.com. Editor deletes suspected spam or emails without subject lines without reading. Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily Mensa's or the Editor's.



BROADCAST

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