

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

BROADCAST

Vol. 23, No. 10 Oct 2017

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

***Celebrating
All You
Halloweenies
Out There in
Radioland***



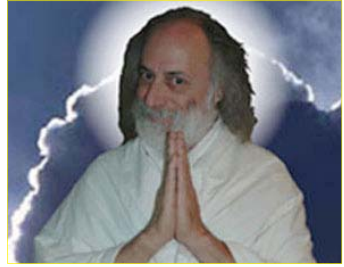
Editorial Mutterings

It's Halloween again, and many a person's favorite day in the year.

Halloween isn't known for feasting on its traditional foods, but what's a holiday without topical recipes? So, in the interest of bulking up for winter hibernation, this issue presents a few recipes for your party guests. Some may be repelled, but some will gobble them down and ask plaintively, "May I have some more, sir?"

Of course, it's always Halloween here in Asheville, but that's an entirely different topic; it's a "stylin' thang."

Your Ghoul-baiting Editor,
The Michael



MERF Scholarships

French Broad Mensa invites western North Carolina residents to apply for Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarships. One does not need to be a member of Mensa to apply. Anyone who will be enrolled in an accredited U.S. college, university, or community college for the Fall term of 2018 is eligible. Awards will be made on the basis of an essay of fewer than 550 words, which describes the applicant's career, vocational, or academic goal and how they plan to achieve the goal. Entries will be judged and awarded at three levels: local, regional and national. There will be at least one local \$600 award. Awards at other levels could be as much as \$1000.

To apply for a scholarship, visit <http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships>. There are also scholarships for Mensa members. Information can be found at the same site.

Deadline for application is January 15, 2018

So What's Not to Love About Facebook?

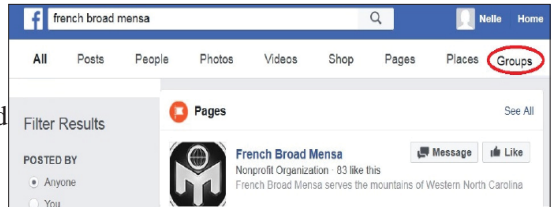
Almost everything, if you're a private person who's not interested in “friend-ing” people in Timbuktu or prefer not to be bombarded in blather. And believe me (where have we heard those words before?), there's a lot of logorrhea being loosed out there these days. There is however, at least one good reason for even Luddities to get on Facebook, and here it is:

Online notifications for every FBM event. Actual reminders the day before an event I've chosen “going” to or “interested” in. Woo-hoo, my unreliable and rapidly departing memory needs all the help it can get. Here's all you need to do to get those handy-dandy notices and reminders yourself.

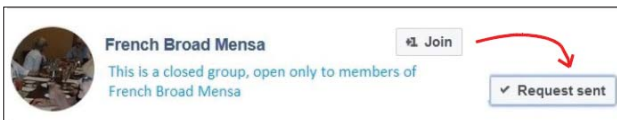
Get a Facebook account. Yes, you do need Facebook to join the French Broad Mensa Facebook Group, but you don't have to “friend” anybody. Anywhere. As long as it's not obviously phony, you can even use a pseudonym - although it's strictly against Facebook rules, so please don't tell the FB gendarmes you heard it from me! You'll see me posting as Ruffian Spamson when I'm wearing my group administrator hat, and Nelle Gruffian if I'm in the “dummy” account I created to make sure I see what you see.

Go to the French Broad Mensa Facebook page and give your mouse a click on “Groups.”

If you get a bunch of “French Broad” this and “French Broad” that in the left hand menu on the page you land on after the “Groups” click, ignore them and click French Broad Mensa... unless you want some of that other stuff, in which case you're on your own.



One more click, this one on the “Join” radio button below your Facebook User ID, and you're done. Your request to join



the Group is wafting its way to the group administrator, who will check the Local and/or National rolls and verify your French Broad Mensa membership.

A day or two later you'll get a notice on your Facebook page and/or your email box to say you're in. Browse “Events” in the left-hand menu to get up to date on previously-posted gatherings, then sit back and let those new notifications roll in. Click “going” or “undecided” on an event, and you'll even get a FB and email reminder the day before! How handy is that? (Yes, that does remind me of a song.)

- Nel Ruffin, your extra-large Member at Large

Selected Halloween Recipes



Glowing Black Widow Oreo Pops

White chocolate casts a soft glow on its own under a black light, but we gave it some extra oomph by mixing the melted chocolate with a little tonic water before dipping

Oreos in the mixture, then pressing a plastic spider on each one. (Psst... you may want to remind people to peel off the spider before eating, because they may get so psyched they inhale the whole pop without thinking.)



Halloween Meringue Bones

Ingredients:

- 8 large egg whites
- Pinch of salt
- 500g caster sugar
- 4 tsp cornflour
- 1 scant tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp white wine vinegar



Heat your oven to

180°C/350°F. Line two baking trays with baking parchment.

Whisk the egg whites with the salt until they're holding firm peaks but are not stiff. Gently add in the sugar, spoonful after spoonful, still beating, until you've got a bowl full of snowy meringue. Sprinkle the cornflour, a few drops of vanilla and the vinegar on top and fold in to combine.

Draw the shapes of bones on each of the parchment-lined sheets. Spoon the meringue onto the baking parchment into the bone shapes. Put into oven, turn it down to 150°C/300°F and bake for 30 minutes.

Turn oven off and leave them in for 30 more minutes, then remove to cool. Transfer them, on their baking parchment, to wire racks.

Chef's Tip:

Serve with a bowl of whipped cream and chocolate sauce or dip each end in melted chocolate and wrap in see through plastic bags as great treat to give out on the doorstep.



Finger Cookies

Witchy finger cookies: roll out some sugar-cookie dough into a thin line (make your cookies thin because they spread), apply an almond shard, then bake as directed.



Eyeball Cookies

by Chef Dee

Yield: 40 cookies



1/2 cup butter, softened
1 1/2 cups peanut butter
2 cups powdered sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla
12 ounces white dipping chocolate
1/2 cup mini chocolate chip
blue food coloring

Cream the butter and peanut butter together. Beat in the vanilla and sugar. Chill for 1/2 hour. Roll into small balls, chill on wax paper for another 1/2 hour.

In a microwave, melt the white dipping chocolate. Using two spoons dip the eyeballs into the white chocolate.

Let the eyeballs cool on waxed paper until firm. Chilling speeds up the process.

Pour a drop or two of blue food coloring into the remaining melted chocolate. Make a round iris on the eyeball, and immediately press a miniature chocolate chip in the center for a pupil, doing 5 at a time.

For the bloodshot effect, dip the tiny end of a toothpick in red food coloring and squiggle the lines from the pupil outward, but not quite to the edges of the ball.

These are quite tasty - considering how creepy they are.

Note: White dipping chocolate is also known as white bark.



RVC Column, October, 2017

October is Mensa Testing Month and most local groups will be testing. This year, the testing is ½ price: \$30. If you have a friend or family member who is interested, this is the time to do it.

I hope that you have heard of the new Mensa Voucher program. Beginning in late September, you will receive an e-mail with a discount code for a friend or colleague good for submitting prior evidence or sitting for a supervised test at no cost. Word of mouth is the most effective recruiting strategy, so who better than our own members to help us identify and recruit new prospects to Mensa? Vouchers will be good from Oct 1 to March 31. The code can be used any time during that time. This is even a better deal than ½ price testing!

Mensa Foundation scholarship application is now available. Applicants don't have to be a current or recent high school student to qualify for a scholarship. Some scholarships are for returning students or graduate students. If you or a family member is interested in a scholarship, you can find more information at <http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>.

Thanks to who have volunteered to be Scholarship Chairs for your local groups. If one of our Chairs calls for help judging applications, say yes. This is a great way to spend a few hours volunteering for your local group. You can even do it without leaving home.

If you are a Young Mensan in grades 10-12, you are eligible to join the Mensa Honor Society. The ideals of the Mensa Honor Society are integrity, intellectual curiosity, academic commitment and service. The application must be completed solely by the applicant and can be found at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/forms-library/mhs-application/>.

I'm preparing to attend the fall AMC meeting in Arlington, TX for. The Winter meeting will be in Houston in early Dec. Meeting agendas are online before each meeting and mini-minutes are available shortly after the meeting ends.

Speaking of Houston, we probably have members who have been adversely affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Given the recent catastrophic weather, Mensa has implemented a safety check-in - much like you see on Facebook - to ensure our members in the area are safe. The site can be accessed at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/>

Continued on Page 8

French Broad Mensa
October 2017 Events Calendar

Tues, Oct. 3, 6 pm, ExCom, Ole's Guacamole, 401 E. State, Black Mountain. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463, federspiel@bellsouth.net

Fri, Oct 6, 11:30 am - First Friday Lunch at TGI Fridays, 115 Hendersonville Road. Details will be furnished later in a reminder e-mail to members. Contact: Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com, or phone 828 298 1707.

Sun, Oct 8, 2-4 - Annual Mensa Cookout at John Federspiel's house, 50 Grand Teton Drive, Hendersonville. Menu coordination is a must. Meat (ribs & chicken) will be provided by our host. Contact John at 450-8463 to coordinate dishes.

Directions: From I-26 take U.S. 64 east toward Bat Cave. Drive approx. 8.5 miles, turn right onto Grand Canyon. The road goes up a steep grade and comes to a "T." Turn left. The road then snakes around and beomes Trillium Falls and a driveway. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463, federspiel@bellsouth.net

Tues, Oct 9 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville, 6:30 to eat, 7:30 to play. Contact: Wayne Stanko, 828-253-8781, wstanko@charter.net

Sat, Oct 14, 11 am - Picnic on the Parkway. Rain date Oct 21. Grill will be fired up, bring food and drink. Contact: Wayne Stanko, 828-253-8781, wstanko@charter.net

Oct 15 - BROADCAST content (letters, articles, clever rude remarks) submission deadline. Contact: michael@michaelhavelin.com

Thurs, Oct 26, 6:30 pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Cinamon Kitchen, 1838 Hendersonville Road, Suite 103, Asheville. Please RSVP for table planning. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463, federspiel@bellsouth.net.

Sat, Oct 28, 6:29 pm, Mask-making party, Grace's house, 25 Hopedale Circle, Emma, Asheville. Contact: Grace Lehto, 828-575-2877, grace@mychickensheet.com

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RVC - Continued from Page 6

welcome-to-our-site/safety-check-in/. This should be activated for catastrophic weather situations in the future as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been adversely affected.

The 2018 Annual Gathering is in Indianapolis, July 4-8. AG and hotel registrations open Nov 1. This AG is close, an easy drive for Region 5. Several hotels at multiple price points are connected in the Marriott complex. The Colloquium, on July 3, examines the topic: *The Evolution and Revolution of Manufacturing*.

The Huntsville, AL City Council has honored North Alabama Mensa's Martha Williams for her almost 30 years of dedication to North Alabama Mensa Kids Trek. Congratulations, Martha and all those who've worked Kids Trek with her.



French Broad Mensa Minutes

Tues, Oct 5, 2017, 6 pm

Held at Ole's Guacamole, Black Mountain, NC. 6 pm Tues, Sept. 5, 2017
Present: John Federspiel, Pat Benard, Bob & Leslie Bouvier, Nel Ruffin,
Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, Wayne Stanko.

Financial Report for August

Opening Balance:	\$3,925.76
Credits: American Mensa Contrib 8/18/17	<u>\$159.70</u>
Total Credits	\$159.70
Debits: Check 615 - park cleanup lunch,	
Food for 7/22 party	(\$111.35)
Check 616 - postage for mailing tests	(\$13.60)
Check refill order	(22.20)
Total Debits	<u>(\$147.15)</u>
Closing balance	\$3,938.31

Submitted by Bob Bouvier Treasurer

Events for October: (See calendar on Page 7)

Michael again said he would like to be relieved of the editorship of the newsletter. Pat Benard agreed to enter into a discussion about taking it on, if no one else wanted to, provided she doesn't have to travel to Asheville to do it.

Nel is going organize a Facebook group for FBM and also one for the ExCom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Submitted by Pat Benard, Deputy Loc. Sec.





Do you have solar eclipse glasses hanging around that are now of no use unless you plan to wait for the next eclipse? There will be another eclipse in Asia and Africa in two years and those glasses can be reused then by the many people who might not have access to them. They will be given away, not sold. All it takes is for you to gather them up and get them to Grace Lehto who will mail them to Explore Scientific. Call Grace at 828-575-2877 for further information.

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Dear Gabbie,

What makes you such an expert anyway? You got a lot of nerve giving out advice.

Angry Follower

Dear Angry,

*What's your problem anyway? Get a grip & suck it up!
Gabbie*

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



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French Broad Mensa again thanks Clark Communications for their help in making this the best looking local group publication in the nation.

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REGION 5 VICE CHAIRMAN

Baker RingRVC5@us.mensa.org

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Deputy Local Secretary

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Rt. Hon. Treasurer

Bob Bouvier 828-713-0270bouv1946@gmail.com

Member-at-Large

Nel Ruffin.....ruffianspamson@gmail.com

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Cari Watson..... 828-633-2575.....paxtonbooks@yahoo.com

Ombudsperson

Grace Lehto..... 828-575-2877.....grace@mychickensheet.com

Membership Coordinator - Position Open

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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