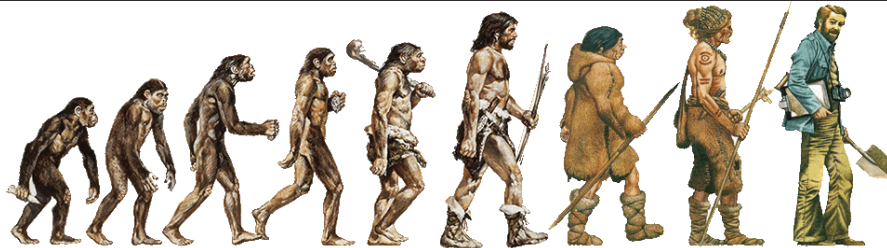


THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

# BROADCAST

Vol. 24, No. 2 Feb 2018

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



*Celebrate Darwin Day, Feb 12, 1809*

*Try to evolve!*

## *A New Year and a New ExComm!*

A new year is upon us (2018, in case you are not aware). Along with a new year, you find yourselves with a new ExComm. Bob Bouvier and Nel Ruffin have agreed to continue to serve as the Treasurer and Member-at-Large, respectively. Sharron Armel is the new Deputy Local Secretary and Scott Samson, the author of this missive, is the Local Secretary (LocSec) for 2018. The Ex-Comm hopes all will see a continuation of the joys found in 2017 and discover new ones in 2018.

In my “candidate statement” published in the December issue of the *Broadcast*, I expressed my concerns about the need to increase interaction among the members of the French Broad Mensa. We have over 120 members in 16 counties covering 6,750 square miles of Western North Carolina. Mensan events I have attended in the Asheville-Hendersonville area have an attendance of no more than 15% of the membership. Since logistics make it difficult for more folks come together, I would like us to be innovative on how all (who are inclined) can participate in French Broad Mensa activities.

Your newsletter, the *Broadcast*, is in need of submissions for upcoming issues. The Mensa National Office suggests the following items: essays, letters, poetry, minibiographies, book, movie and/or game reviews, and stand-alone photographs. Submissions are limited to 250–300 words. This is your chance to be published! Send material to *Broadcast* editor Michael Havelin at michael@michaelhavelin.com.

A reminder of the upcoming Carolinah Regional Gathering on March 23, 24 and 25. The gathering will be held at the Drury Inn and Suites in Greenville, SC. Additional information and registration for the gathering can be found on the Piedmont Area Mensa website at <http://www.piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2018.htm>.

Scott  
(ki4gis@yahoo.com)



## *Editorial Mutterings*

Darwin Day is coming 'round again. I want to see everyone evolve this year. There's so much that needs evolving... Don't you agree? But to business...



We have an entirely new (except for Bob & Nel) group of French Broad Mensa administrators (laughingly called the Executive Committee [ExCom, Ex Comm...] there are lots of available variations - or make one up yourself). I've met with them once and plenty of new ideas are being floated around. Much of their planning revolves around increasing member participation in events, and, of course, lots of new events.

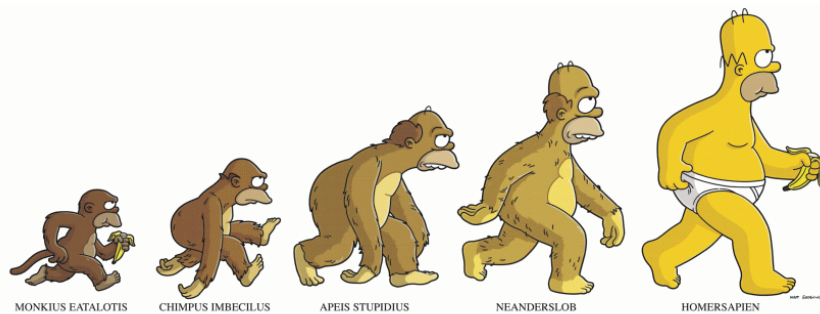
But they can't do it alone. Your participation begins with making suggestions for events - either Mensa-sponsored events or non-Mensa events of interest to Mensans. Don't be bashful, folks. French Broad Mensa is YOUR organization. Let's hear from you. Suggest events you'd like to share with your fellow (sic) Mensans.

Call the ExCom members. Email them. Email me, your lowly editor. I'll get the message to the decision-makers.

Let's get this show on the road!

Please note that I have resigned from the FBM Webmaster position effective January 10, 2018. Of course, I'm available to help the new (yet to be named) Webmaster get going.

Your Highly-Evolved Editor (see below),  
Michael Havelin



**HOMERSAPIEN**

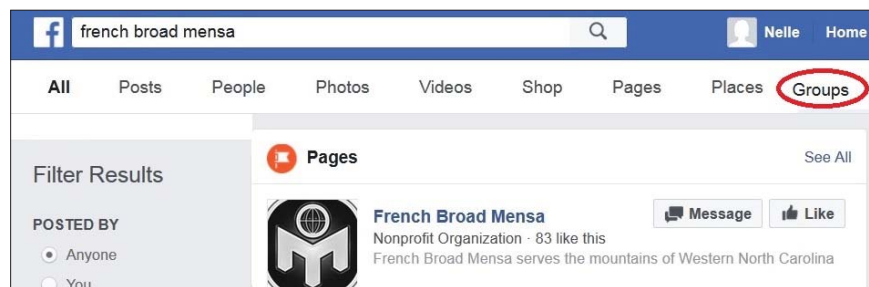
## *So What's Not to Love About Facebook?*

Almost everything, if you're a private person who's not interested in “friending” 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 logorrohea 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. (Lately I have the approximate attention span of a tardigrade, unable to remember whether I drank that cup of coffee or left it in the goldfish bowl. I am, however, still able to recall lyrics and melody to practically every song I've ever heard, at least up to 1984 or thereabouts.) But I digress. 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

*In Memorium*

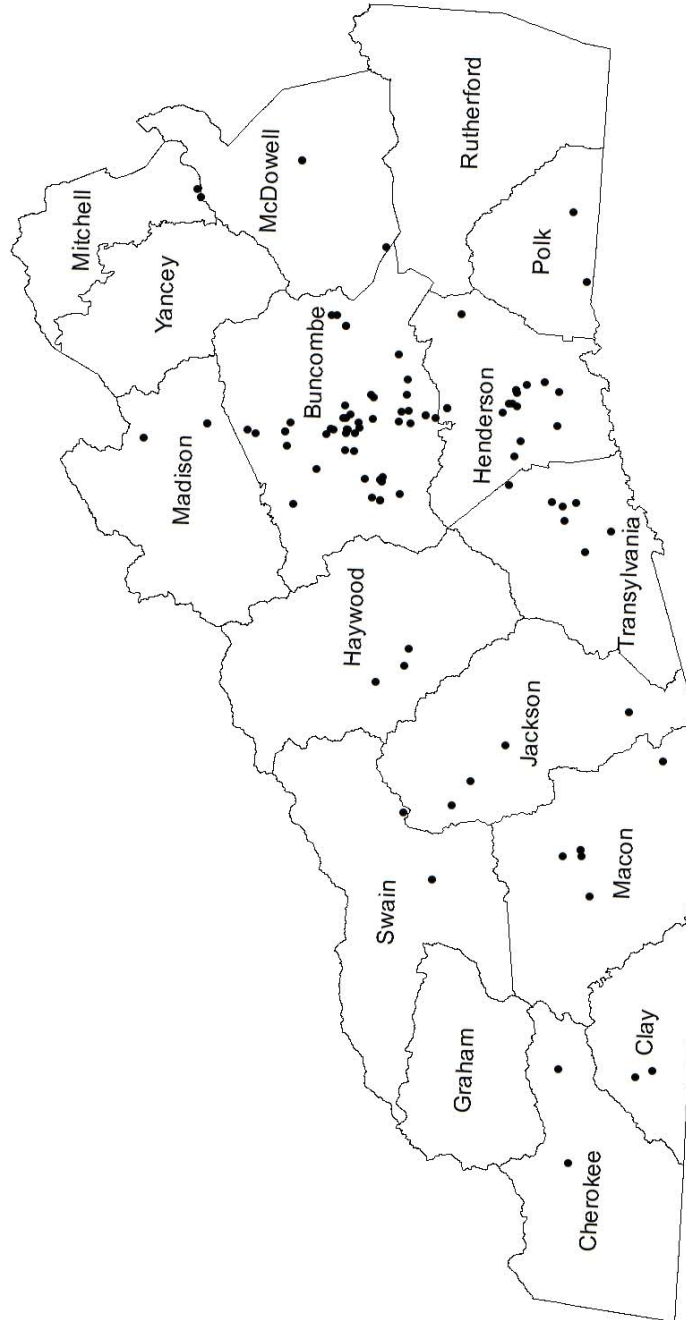
We are sad to announce the passing  
on January 6th, 2018 of  
**William Norman Booker**, 88,  
long-time Mensa member  
and supporter of French Broad Mensa.

Funeral services will  
be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 3 at  
Groce United Methodist Church.





# Location of French Broad Members



***French Broad Mensa  
February 2018 Events Calendar***

**Fri, Feb 2, 11:30 - First Friday Lunch at Ay Caramba** across from River Ridge Shopping Center in the Oakley area (801 Fairview Road). Details will be furnished later in a reminder email to members. Contact Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone 828-298-1707.

**Sat, Feb 4, 6pm - Super Bowl at The Walk** (West Asheville Lounge and Kitchen), 401 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC 28806. A big crowd is expected, so arrive early. They don't accept reservations. Contact: Michael Havelin, 828-712-5570 or michael@michaelhavelin.com

**Tues, Feb 6, 6pm - ExCom Meeting at Pomodoro's South**, 75 Long Shoals Road, Asheville, NC 28704. 828-687-3884. Contact: Scott Samson, 662-769-1654 or ki4gis@yahoo.com

**Mon, Feb 12 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood**, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville. Dinner at 6:30 pm, game at 7:30 pm. Contact: Wayne Stanko, 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net

**Feb 15 - BROADCAST content submission deadline** (Send your letters, articles, clever rude remarks).

**Thurs, Feb 22, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Texas Roadhouse**, 230 Hendersonville Road Asheville, NC. Contact: Sharron Armel, 828-280-6234, sharronarmel@gmail.com

*Note: If you're planning to attend an event, please R.S.V.P. to the contact person for head count & table planning purposes.*



## *Of Freezing Fog and Clumsy Bunnies*

As we flounder into February, I find myself thinking back to 2017's last gasp and 2018's first sharp intake of breath. It was an interesting transition, and one that perhaps holds a thought to hold onto as the year progresses.

On New Year's Eve we were treated to a meteorological phenomenon I knew about but had never experienced before: freezing mist. The Other Guy actually went out and breathed a little bit of it, but I stayed inside and took his word for it.

The first morning of 2018 began with a thin blanket of snow and other frozen sparkly stuff. Exquisitely lovely, but slicker than suntan oil on a 17-year-old. A neighborhood rabbit was out early but appears to have hit a slippery spot jumping from earth to pavement. No regrets about going to bed long before the big ball fell, but I sure wish I'd been awake to see that.

The imagined rabbity discombobulation gave me a good



laugh but left me with a somewhat philosophical thought for 2018. May it be a good year for all of us, better than the last one – and certainly filled with far more firm footing than slippery spots.

Cheers,

Nel

Member at Large





***ExComm Minutes – French Broad Mensa – 1/2/18***

Held 6 pm at Pomodoros, Long Shoals Road  
Present: Scot Samson, Sharron Armel, Nel Ruffin, Michael Halelin

Financial Report for December 2017

Opening Balance:	\$4,105.48
Credits	
Am. MENSA Contribution 12/15/2017	<u>\$108.95</u>
Total Credits:	\$108.95
Debits:	
Check 621 - Stanko - mailing costs	\$89.88
Check 622 - Holiday party	<u>\$278.73</u>
Total Debits:	\$368.61
Closing Balance:	\$3,845.82

Submitted by Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

Events for February were discussed and will be listed in the February issue of the *Broadcast*.

The topic was introduced regarding the issue of increasing member participation in the French Broad Mensa. As a first step, members will be encouraged to submit materials to the editor for upcoming *Broadcast* issues.

A meal event will be scheduled in the Spring in Brevard to reach out and move closer to members who have not been able to attend previous French Broad activities.



*Word of the Month: imbrolio (noun)*

1. a misunderstanding, disagreement, etc., of a complicated or bitter nature, as between persons or nations.
2. an intricate and perplexing state of affairs; a complicated or difficult situation.
3. a confused heap.

*Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie*

*Dear Gabbie,*

*Is it true that we're evolved from other primates? How can that be? I thought we'd miscegenated with Neanderthals.*

*Concept Challenged*

*Dear Challenged,*

*Evolved, shmevolved. Who cares? Are you offended because Uncle Jack has big hairy ears and hasn't evolved in all the years you've known him? Ever take a good long comparative look at yourself? Surprise! Scary, ain't it?*

*Gabbie*



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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.*

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

..... 817-607-0090 ..... AmericanMensa@mensa.org

**REGION 5 VICE CHAIRMAN**

Baker Ring ..... RVC5@us.mensa.org

**FRENCH BROAD MENSA OFFICERS**

**Executive Committee**

**Local Secretary (LocSec)**

Scott Samson..... 662-769-1654 ..... ki4gis@yahoo.com

**Deputy Local Secretary**

Sharron Armel..... 828-280-6234 ..... sharronarmel@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

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

**Member-at-Large**

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

**FRENCH BROAD MENSA APPOINTED OFFICERS**

**Proctors**

Karen Youket..... 828-645-4569 ..... kyouket@charter.net

Carmen Jessup ..... ciej@aol.com

**Editor & Web Geek**

Michael Havelin..... 828-712-5570 ..... michael@michaelhavelin.com

**Testing Coordinator**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... wstanko@charter.net

**S.I.G.H.T.**

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

**Ombudsman**

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.





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