

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 24, No.3 April 2018

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



*Spring is
Coming to
the Mountains!*



And the Survey Says . . .

First, I would like to thank the 39 brave souls (29% of the group membership) who responded to the recent French Broad Mensa survey. Your participation will help identify what needs to be addressed to make Mensa meaningful to the membership.

The questions and the responses to the survey are listed below. The percentage values next to each of the possible responses show the percent of the participants selecting the associated answer. While the ExComm will discuss the results of the survey, you are encouraged to contact us with your thoughts and suggestions.

(1) What is your current age?

- a. Under 18 (2.6%) c. 31 to 60 (30.8%)
- b. 18 to 30 (0.0%) d. Over 60 (66.7%)

(2) Do you participate in any of French Broad Mensa activities (e.g., dinner, trivia night)?

- a. Yes (41.0%) b. No (59.0%)

(3) Would you attend a French Broad Mensa activity if it would be near you?

- a. Yes (51.3%) b. No (0.0%) c. Maybe (48.7%)

(4) How far would you travel to a French Broad Mensa activity?

- a. Under 15 minutes (7.9%) c. 30 to 45 minutes (28.9%)
- b. 15 to 30 minutes (36.8%) d. 45 to 60 minutes (26.3%)

(5) If distance is currently a factor in not attending activities, would you be interested in joining a subgroup of French Broad Mensa organized for your local area?

- a. Yes (27.8%) b. No (19.4%) c. Maybe (52.8%)

Front page photograph of Lake Tomahawk, Black Mountain, submitted by Nel Ruffin. If you have an original photograph or graphic suitable for the cover of the Broadcast, send a digital copy to Scott Samson (ki4gis@yahoo.com).

French Broad Mensa
April 2018 Events Calendar

Tues, April 3, 6pm - ExCom Meeting at East Village Grille, 1177 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC. Menu: <https://eastvillagegrille.com>. Contact: Scott Samson, 662-769-1654 or ki4gis@yahoo.com.

Fri, April 6, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at Copper River Grill, 1302 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville. Menu: <https://www.copperrivergrill.com>. Contact Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone (828) 298-1707.

Mon, April 9 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact - Will McGuffin, 828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net.

April 15 - BROADCAST content submission deadline. Send your letters, articles, photographs to Scott Samson at ki4gis@yahoo.com.

Thurs, April 26, 6:30pm – ThuD! (Thursday Dinner) at Post 25 Kitchen & Lounge, 2155 Hendersonville Rd (the former Black Forest Restaurant) Arden, NC. Menu: <http://post25avl.com>. Contact: Sharron Armel, 828-280-6234, sharronarmel@gmail.com.

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.



Greece

The first time I went to Greece, I landed at Athens and wanted to take a taxi to the hotel. I had never heard of Gypsy taxis. Those are the ones who are illegal. I got one of those. On the way to the hotel, the driver asked if I wanted to see a bit of Athens. Dumb me I said yes. He drove to a wonderful place. A site which overlooked the Acropolis. It was in the evening. It was lit up and beautiful. It was so beautiful that I cried. The driver saw that. When we got to the hotel he asked the clerk to give me a room with a view of the Acropolis. The driver refused to take any money for the fare.

The second time I went to Greece was to stay at a house that a German Air Traffic controller and I bought. It was on the island of Skiathos. I rented a car and was given a map totally in Greek. I left the airport and started out. I looked at the map and could not figure out what road I was on. I saw a hitchhiker and stopped. He was a young boy who spoke no English. He understood that I wanted to go to the port to catch a ferry to the island. We drove about 30 miles in the opposite direction of where he was going. We got to the port and he would not take any money.

BTW the island has a beach called "Banana Beach." It is a nude beach.

--- submitted by Ron Jones

Hundreds of fans of John Boyle, The Answer Man, gathered to celebrate International Ask a Question Day on March 14. John regaled us with some favorite questions he's answered during the past two decades, and shared the stage with a few special "answerers." Can you guess which of these questions (posed by Citizen-Times readers) got a "Yes!" answer from Boyle? (see page 11 for the answer)

- (a) Those brown number signs on the interstate out near Canton — are they counting down to the Apocalypse?
- (b) Is a water slide (or conference center, or apartment complex, or theme park) being built at the Biltmore Estate?
- (c) Are those white dihydrogen monoxide vapor trails behind airplanes in flight actually a vaccine, or a disease, being broadcast by our government?
- (d) Is it legal to bury a body in your yard in Asheville?

--- submitted by Sharron Armel and Fae Armstrong

Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting

March 6, 2018

Financial Report for February 2018

Opening Balance:		\$ 3,952.92
Credits: Am. MENSA Contribution 2/18/2018	\$112.65	
Total Credits:		\$112.65
Debits: None		
Total Debits:		\$0.00
Closing Balance:		\$4,065.57

Held at 6:00pm at Post 25 on Hendersonville Road in Arden

Present: Scott Samson, Nel Ruffin, Sharron Armel, Will McGuffin

The group discussed newsletter and website issues:

- Need to recruit a newsletter editor
- National requirements for publication of newsletter
- Standards for articles accepted for publication

Upcoming meetings are presented elsewhere in the Broadcast.

Respectfully submitted by Sharron Armel

Mensan Obituary

Harry Paly passed away on February 25 at the age of 90. Born in the Bronx, New York, Harry served in the Army Air Corps during WWII, graduated from City College of New York, and worked as a computer systems analyst in Florida before moving to Hendersonville. Harry proved you are never too old to become a Mensan – he passed his exam at the age of 76!

RVC Column, April 2018

A few days after I write this, I'm headed to Greenville, SC for their Carolinah RG, "Get Smart." The hotel block is sold out, but there still might be a spot if you contact registrar Mary Ann Cox. If you can't go this year, there's always next. If you've never been to an RG, this is a great one to get your feet wet with.

If you haven't registered your CultureQuest® teams, there may still be time. Registration is open until March 31 and the contest is April 29. You can register and get more information at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest>. Several Region 5 teams have done quite well in the past. Maybe this year it's your turn.

If you haven't registered for the American Mensa Annual Gathering, "Monumentally Mindbending," what are you waiting for? Indianapolis is close enough that most of us can drive it in one day. Tours are online at: <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>. Programs will be online over the next few weeks. This year's AG will take place July 4-8.

The Colloquium will be held on July 3, with the theme "The Evolution and Revolution of Manufacturing." For more information, you can check out the Colloquium section of the AG website.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, it's not too late. Renew today so you don't forget. If your registration isn't renewed by March 31, you will miss out on The Bulletin, this newsletter, local activities and lots of other stuff. Members who use the discounts listed on the website under benefits say that the money saved has offset the cost of membership.

The National Community Service Committee is sponsoring "Mensa Cares" again, this year. The idea is for local groups to participate in a community service event on April 28 or sometime during National Service week, 4/22 – 29. Check with your local group Ex Com and see if they have an event scheduled. If not, work with them to schedule something. If that day or week doesn't work in your area, plan an event on another day in April. And, if you participate, you can order cool "Mensa Cares" t-shirts for just \$10 from the Mensa Store. If you have an idea for an ongoing community service project,

contact your Ex Com and make a suggestion.

If you want to know what happened at the Spring AMC meeting in Denver, you can look at the Mini-Minutes. The official minutes will be available after they are approved by the AMC. I will share one item with you, Dr. Abbie Salny was selected to receive the Margot award, Mensa's highest award. She is the only person to win this award twice. We also passed the 2018-19 budget.

I would like to thank all the local group officers and volunteers who make Mensa what it is. We are an organization that provides so much to so many people. If you are not active in your local group, I encourage you to do so.

And Then There was the Squirrel

So after a loooooong hard day of trying to pack more stuff with realtors traipsing through the house, the carpet-replacement guy measuring rooms, the moving guy making his checklist for a quote, our first "real" buyer prospect asking to see the house right at dinnertime, and a hasty departure to a sandwich shop to dawdle for 45 minutes over what would normally have been a 20-minute grab-and-go we finally settle down in front of the TV to relax, cat in lap, watching an old episode of FarScape.

And that's when the squirrel fell down the chimney.

--- submitted by Nel Ruffin

Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's Party!' (Robin Williams)

In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours. (Mark Twain)

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. (Henry Van Dyke)

In the Spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. (Margaret Atwood)

Trivial Report

Due to potentially bad weather the Whoos had only four players to duel with 16 other teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in March.

The theme of the first round was high school biology.

1. Botany is the plant division of biology. What is the other?
2. Thrombocytes that help in blood clotting are also known as what?
3. Which of the following has the highest % of water: watermelon, jelly fish, or a newborn baby?
4. What one cell species is named after Greek for first being?
5. Linus Pauling identified keratin in finger nails and what else?
Extra. What blood cells are named after the Greek word for white?
6. Who described the basic laws of genetics?
7. A toad's heart has one fewer chambers than a human heart. How many chambers does a toad's heart have?
8. The order diptera including flies means what?
9. What does lacrimation produce?
10. Water leaves a plant's leaves by what process?

We answered all questions correctly and were tied for first place with one other team.

The theme of the second round was March madness.

1. March 14, 1964: Who was convicted of shooting the man that shot the president?
2. March, 1982: Who scored the winning shot for UNC vs. the Hoyas?
3. March 5, 1770: What is the name of the event when the British gunned down five colonists?
4. March, 1969: Baron Constantine was the first black member of which house of the British Parliament?
5. March, 1854: The UK and France started what war with the Russians?
6. March, 1562: Which French religious group was massacred?
7. March, 1792: King Gustov, III of what country was assassinated?
8. In a ceremony, composer Edward Elgar was honored by the playing of what march?
Extra. In 2001, which space station was destroyed while deorbiting?
9. In 1935, Hitler's rearming of Germany violated what treaty?

10. What catholic school in Spokane is playing UNC-Greensboro in the tournament?
We only missed one question and were now tied for second one point behind the leader.

The third round is the speed round. We had five minutes to answer a sheet of questions. In the first part, we were given a list of craft beers and had to identify the large brewery that owned them. The second part listed the names of politicians. We had to identify the party to which they belonged. At the end of the round, we were still tied for second, one point behind the leader.

The theme of round four was potpourri.

1. The parasitic plasmodium genus causes what infection?
2. The Grand Bazaar, the largest covered market in the world, is in what city?
3. What food stuff is named after the French words for fat liver?
4. What is the official currency of Pakistan?
5. What was Margaret Thatcher's nickname?
6. The civil war battle of Independence was fought in what state?
7. John Lennon and Yoko Ono held week long bed-ins in what two cities?
8. What business man is known as the sage of Omaha?
9. Who did Marilyn Monroe marry in 1954?
10. What movement began in 2010 in Tunisia?

We got eight of ten correct and ended up in third place two points behind the leader. This is the third consecutive time we have finished in third place. Why don't you join us? Maybe your answer could give us a win.

Answers

Round 1: 1. Zoology (Robert); 2. Platelets (Will); 3. Jelly fish (Will); 4. Protozoa (Robert); 5. Hair (Will); Extra. Leucocytes (Robert); 6. Gregor Mendel (Robert); 7. Three; 8. Two wings (Robert); 9. Tears; 10. Transpiration (Robert).

Round 2: 1. Jack Ruby; 2. Michael Jordon (Wayne); 3. Boston massacre; 4. House of Lords (Wayne); 5. Crimean war (Wayne); 6. Huguenots; 7. Sweden; 8. Pomp and Circumstance; Extra. Mir; 9. Versailles (Wayne); 10. Gonzaga (Wayne).

Round 3: 1. Malaria; 2. Istanbul (Wayne); 3. Fois Gras; 4. Rupee; 5. Iron Lady; 6. Missouri; 7. Montreal and Amsterdam; 8. Warren Buffet; 9. Joe DiMaggio; 10. Arab Spring (Wayne).

Yogi Berra-isms

Some of you may remember the major league baseball player from the 1940's to the 1960's, Yogi Berra. If not, go to the Internet. That's what it's there for! Yogi was known for his malaprops, both intentional and unintentional. Many of the quotes below originated with Yogi, others sound as if they came from him.

You have got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.

Nobody goes there anymore, it's too crowded.

Never answer an anonymous letter.

The future ain't what it used to be.

When you come to a fork in the road, take it.

It's like deja-vu all over again.

You should always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise, they won't come to yours.

You better cut the pizza in four pieces. I'm not hungry enough to eat eight.

You can observe a lot just by watching.



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Submissions to the Broadcast

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.

(d) Yes, you CAN bury a body in your yard in Asheville, but it has to be at least 18" deep.



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