

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 24, No. 5 May 2018

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



*April showers bring
May flowers . . .
and future Mensans!*

RVC Column

The Mini-Minutes for the Spring AMC Meeting, held in Denver, CO are online (<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>). Since March 31 is the end of the Mensa year, the Board passed the budget and completed other business. The Mini-Minutes are generally on line within a few days of the meeting. The Minutes can't be posted until they are approved, either at the next regular meeting, or at a specially-called tele-meeting

This year's Carolinah RG, held in Greenville, SC, was their largest ever. More people means more fun. Next year, it will be held towards the end of March again. Plan, now, to be there. The next RG will be in the Atlanta area in September.

This year's AG, "Monumentally Mindbending", is almost upon us (July 4-8). Tours are listed online, and programs are added as times and dates firm up. I'm looking forward to a great time for all. Looks like we will have a large contingent from our 20 local groups. This year's colloquium will take place the day before the AG and will deal with manufacturing.

Indianapolis is easy driving for most of us, however, there has been concern about parking. Parking at the hotel is convenient but expensive. However, the AG Committee has worked hard to find off-site parking which is much more reasonably priced. This is a link to the parking info page: <https://ag.us.mensa.org/pages/essentials/event-parking/>. I know that if you are driving, you will appreciate their hard work. I surely do.

As we have ended the Mensa year, I hope that everyone has renewed. If not, why don't you do it today? Several of our groups ended the year with an increase in membership over the previous year. Every time I read a local group newsletter I am enthused about the variety of activities that some of our groups host. If your group isn't hosting the type of event that you would like to attend, contact a member of your Executive Committee and work on setting something up.

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Cover photo submitted by Nel Ruffin

French Broad Mensa
May 2018 Events Calendar

Tues, May 1, 6pm - ExCom Meeting at East Village Grille, 1177 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC. Menu: <https://eastvillagegrille.com>. Contact Scott Samson, ki4gjs@yahoo.com or 662-769-1654.

Fri, May 4, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at Olive Garden, 121 Tunnel Rd., Asheville. Menu: <https://www.olivegarden.com>. Contact Fae Armstrong, one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-298-1707.

Sat, May 12, 11am, Amboy Road Greenway Clean-Up. We will also pick up trash on Amboy Road. Riverlink provides bags, gloves, safety vests, and pickers. Meet at Amboy Greenway parking lot. For incentive, Mensa will provide lunch for the volunteers after we finish. Reservations are needed so we can tell Riverlink how much equipment we need. Contact Wayne Stanko, wstanko@charter.net or 828-253-8781 by May 9.

Mon, May 14 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact Will McGuffin, wmcguffin@charter.net or 828-296-7544.

May 15 BROADCAST content submission deadline. Send your letters, articles, photographs to Scott Samson at ki4gjs@yahoo.com.

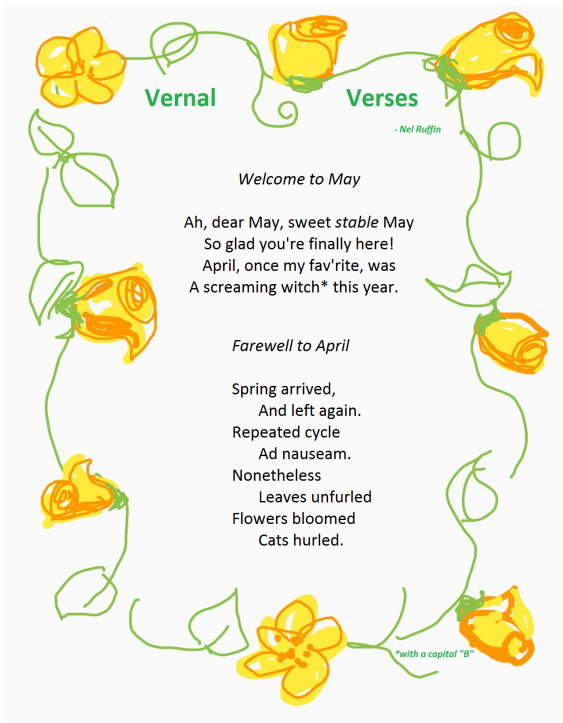
Thurs, May 24, 6:30pm - ThuD! (Thursday Dinner) at the Cornerstone Restaurant, 102 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, NC. Menu: <http://www.cornerstonerest.com>. Contact Sharron Armel, sharronarmel@gmail.com or 828-280-6234.

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 might not be able to seat you. Preference goes to RSVPs.

Singing for Nixon

One of the duties of the "Sea Chanters", the official Navy Chorus with which I sang first tenor from 1966-1970, was to sing at state dinners at the White House. We sang for two during my years in the group, one of which was for Prince Phillip. He, President Nixon and about 10 other people were present that evening. We waited to go on in an anteroom off the State Dining Room with a number of gentlemen with walkie-talkies keeping a close eye on us. (I made sure there was nothing in my inner jacket pocket that I might have to suddenly reach for, like my glasses.) One of the pieces we sang was a spiritual, "The Animals are Coming". It consists of verses ("the animals are comin', one by one, the old cow chewin' on a caraway bun", etc.) After "De animals a comin', seven by seven, the old fat pig says..." I had to step forward and loudly shout "Who's dat shovin?". Although that was the extent of my solo for the president, I did get a good laugh from everyone present. The memory still lingers.

--- Will McGuffin



Taiwan

About 30 years ago I helped Taiwan procure an ATC system. While I was there I met a female Air Traffic Controller. We had lengthy discussions about what went on in the software that ran the system.

Twenty years later I got a call from Taiwan asking me to come and do it again. The controller that I met 20 years before was now the Director General of Civil Aviation. My job was to produce a system specification that would give the controllers what they needed to control traffic. I started by watching them as they worked. I carefully noted their procedures and produced the specification. This spec was sent to vendors who produce ATC systems. The vendors responded with a technical proposal and a cost proposal. I evaluated the technical proposal and the government evaluated the cost proposal. We combined our evaluations and a contract was signed with the winning vendor. For the next 3½ years I monitored the development and testing. I flew often to Taipei and whenever I returned to the US my secretary always asked about the trip.

One time I went to a street in Taipei called Snake Alley. The shops on both sides of the street had live snakes on display. I went to one shop and chose a snake. The man sliced the snake lengthwise and drained the blood into a glass. I drank the blood and went inside to have fried snake. It was very good.

On my return to the office my secretary asked if I ate anything different on this trip. I told her what I had done. She asked me why anyone would do that. I told her that it was to increase male potency. She replied with an absolutely straight face – “It didn’t work”.

I love this story.

--- Ron Jones

Spring is the time of the year, when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.
(Charles Dickens)

Walk lightly in the spring; Mother Earth is pregnant. (Kiowa proverb)

Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting

April 2018

First Quarter Financial Report, 2018

Beginning Balance:		\$3,845.82
Credits: American MENSA Contribution January 2018	\$107.10	
American MENSA Contribution February 2018	\$112.65	
American MENSA Contribution March 2018	\$115.05	
Total Credits:		\$334.80
Debits: Check 624 - Dues for D. Diehn, printer	\$79.00	
Total Debits:		\$79.00
Ending Balance:		\$4,101.62

--- Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

The Executive Committee met at the East Village Grill in Asheville. Present were Scott Samson, Nel Ruffin, Wayne Stanko, Sharron Armel, and Will McGuffin, and a guest, Miss Jane Salter.

Meeting Schedule:

- The April ThuD! will be held at Post 25 Restaurant in Arden, at 6:30pm on Thursday April 26. Please email SharronArmel@gmail.com or call 828-280-6234 if you plan to attend, so we can plan the table space needed.
- The May Executive Committee meeting will be held again at the East Village Grill, at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 1.
- The May ThuD! will be held at the Cornerstone Restaurant on Tunnel Road in Asheville, at 6:30pm

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Events Planning:

- We reviewed the suggestion from Fae Armstrong that we resume inviting speakers to our group. Wayne suggested several possible speakers: Evan Couzo, Ph.D., a UNCA professor who recently spoke at the Collider on the topic of the climate change debate, a speaker from the Asheville Science Museum, Collider officers. Sharron Armel will work with Fae to identify and contact potential speakers, plan dates, and secure sites.
- Wayne also noted that the Collider has two standing events that might interest Mensa members: On the 3rd Friday of each month, the Science Pub presents a free lecture and beer, and on the 4th Tuesday, an environmental film is shown with free beer.
- Wayne indicated that May 12 is our next Greenway Cleanup day, beginning at 11am. Please contact Wayne if you are able to help: wstanko@charter.net

Newsletter: Scott requested articles of 250-300 words in length to be submitted to him by the 15th of each month, for possible inclusion in newsletters.

Webmaster: The group decided to offer to reimburse Mensa dues for the volunteer who agrees to take over our website management.

--- Sharron Armel

(RVC Column continued from page 2)

All of our local groups could use additional volunteers. Mensa is a volunteer organization and if you don't volunteer, who will?

Last year, Mensa's Community Service Committee began Mensa Cares. If your local group participates in Mensa Cares, I hope that many of you will participate. Many of our members have expressed interest in doing community service. Some local groups do it once a year, others, on an on-going basis. Since some groups may not be aware of service opportunities, if you know of any that would work for your groups, contact your ExCom.

Hoping that you have a great spring... if it ever gets here.

--- Baker Ring, Regional Vice Chair

Trivial Report

April 9, 2018, "The Whoos" (Robert, Johanna, Fae, Will, and Sharron) competed against more than a dozen other teams.

(Answers to the questions may be found on page 10.)

Round 1: Theme -- Loud

1. What is a 2-word term for the sound a jet exceeding the speed of sound creates?
2. What "loud & noisy" musical piece by Tchaikovsky in E flat major is often accompanied by fireworks?
3. Which volcanic island eruption in 1883 was heard 3,000 miles away and thought to be cannon fire?
4. What is the largest New World monkey whose vocalizations can be heard up to 3 miles away?
5. Name the loudest rock band, according to Guinness, who recorded "Smoke on the Water."
6. What stadium, home to the Kansas City Chiefs, is the loudest outdoor arena used in the NFL?
7. What is the classical music term for "very loud"?
8. The Blue Whale, at 188 decibels, is louder than a jet engine. What animal cranks out 230 decibels, as proven by the BBC?
9. What 1984 film, directed by Marty diBergi, featured the fictional rock album "Smell the Glove"?
10. What insect (*brevisana brevis*) emits 106.7 decibel sounds?

We answered 7 of the questions correctly.

Round 2: Theme -- Literature

1. The first 13 Nobel prizes in literature were awarded to authors from which continent?
2. What novel by Amy Tan traced the lives and fortunes of four women?
3. What loving relative, inspired by Twain's mother, cared for Tom Sawyer?
4. What black author wrote Song of Solomon, a 1977 Book-of-the-Month selection?
5. Give the first name of the natural history writer killed by Vesuvius in 79 AD?

Extra Credit: What Santa Rosa brewery makes a beer based on that same natural history writer?

6. What 1883 novel was narrated by Jim Hawkins?
7. What novel, written by Ernest J. Gaines, described the life of a 110-year-old slave?
8. What is the pen name of Neftali Reyes, Chilean poet who published Elemental Odes in 1954?
9. Name the author of the Sackett Family stories.
10. What character, introduced by James Fenimore Cooper in Pioneers, appeared in four more of his novels?

We answered 6 questions correctly.

Round 3: Speed Round ended with The Whoos closer to the bottom of the list than to the top!

Round 4: Potpourri

1. Explorer, Street Viper, Rocket, and Thunderbird are motorcycle models made by what company?
2. Operation Dynamo was the code name for the desperate evacuation of Allied soldiers from what French town?
3. What is the number of righteous men in each generation, according to Jewish legend, as well as the highest number on a roulette wheel?
4. "Mistress of the Robes" is the title of which woman's chief lady-in-waiting?
5. What is India's national emblem? 3 elephants, 3 lions, 3 peacocks, or 3 tigers?
6. What revolutionary organization was founded in the USA in 1968 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale?

Extra credit: Rib, stretcher, runner, ferrule, crookhandle, and tube are components of what common item?

7. What major international leader, using the nickname "Abandon," was officially given member status in 2010 by the Hell's Angels' high council on bikers?
8. What is the previous name of the Nissan auto company?
9. "Anachronistic" means literally from another: mother, language, time, or culture?
10. What royal house followed Richard III?

We answered 8 questions correctly.

Answers for the Trivial Report

Round 1: Loud

1. Sonic boom, 2. 1812 Overture, 3. Krakatoa, 4. Howler Monkeys, 5. Deep Purple (Robert), 7. Fortissimo (Will), 10. Cicada. We missed three: 6. Arrowhead, 8. Sperm Whale, 9. This Is Spinal Tap, and ended in second place.

Round 2: Literature

1. Europe, 2. The Joy Luck Club (Sharron/Robert), 3. Aunt Polly (Sharron/Will), 5. Pliny (Robert), 9. Louis L'Amour (Sharron), 10. Natty Bumppo (Sharron/Robert). We missed 4. Toni Morrison, 6. Treasure Island, 7. The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, 8. Pablo Neruda. We slipped to 3rd place after Round 2.

Round 4: Potpourri

2. Dunkirk, 3. 36 (Johanna), 4. Queen Elizabeth II, 6. Black Panthers (Will), Extra Credit-Umbrella (Will), 7. Putin (Johanna & Sharron), 8. Datsun, 9. Time (Will). We missed 1: Triumph, 5. Lions, 10. Tudor.

The final score put The Whoos one point away from the "middle of the pack" award.



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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 the right to refuse publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning are retained.

No personal attacks.



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