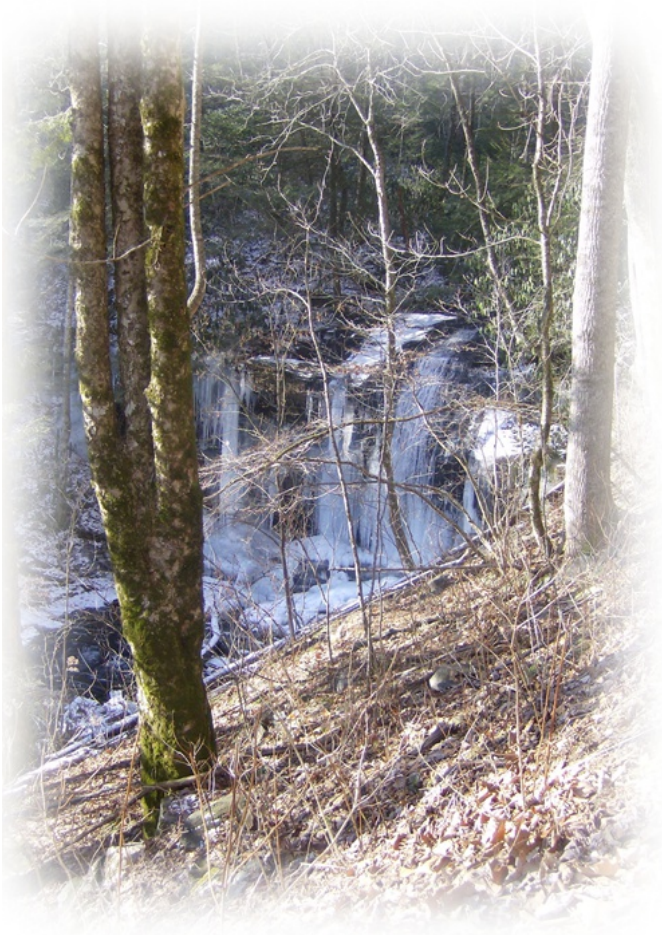


The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 24, No. 6 June 2018

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



*Nothing is softer or more flexible than  
water, yet nothing can resist it.*

*--- Lao Tzu*

## Regional Vice Chairman Column

As you read this, we are only a few weeks from the 2018 AG in Indianapolis “Monumentally Mindbending.” The AG begins July 4, with the Colloquium on July 3. There is a lot of information about the AG on the website: <https://ag.us.mensa.org/>. If you are bringing children (ages 4-12), there is a program for them, called SPARK. It's always outstanding and the kids get a lot out of it. But don't tell them that. Tell them that it will be fun.

It's always exciting to see so many folks from Region 5 at each AG. We will have a Region 5 Meet and Greet where new AG attendees and those who have experienced several AGs can get together and compare notes. If you haven't already registered, there is still time. From Programs and Games, to SIGs, to Meet and Greets, to Tours, and Hospitality. There is something for everyone at the AG.

As we get closer to the AG, more information will show up on the website. Attendees will be able to download an App with everything that they will need to enjoy the AG. I hope to see lots of you there. However, if you can't attend AG 2018, start planning now for AG 2019 in Phoenix.

Most of us will be driving to the AG. Did you know that one of the benefits Mensans have is discounts on rental cars? You can get discounts for Alamo, Hertz, and National. There are lots of other benefits available. Check them out on the website under My Mensa.

As you know, the Mensa membership year ended March 31. If you know someone who hasn't renewed, encourage them to do so this month. You wouldn't want them to miss out on anything.

Most of us who belong to Mensa have friends and family who qualify. My nephew joined in December at the age of 17. This made him eligible for several Mensa Foundation scholarships. If your local group is testing this summer, who do you know should be a member. Here's to a great summer. Enjoy some Mensa local group activities while you're at it.

--- Baker Ring

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Cover photo of Grassy Creek Falls submitted by Pat Benard

**French Broad Mensa  
May 2018 Events Calendar**

**Fri, June 1, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at Outback Restaurant**, 30 Tunnel Rd., Asheville. Menu: <https://www.outback.com>. Contact Fae Armstrong, [one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com) or 828-298-1707.

**Tues, June 5, 6pm - ExCom Meeting at Village Wayside Bar & Grille**, 30 Lodge St, Asheville, NC. Menu: <https://villagewayside.com>. Contact Scott Samson, [ki4gjs@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4gjs@yahoo.com) or 662-769-1654.

**Mon, June 11 - 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](mailto:wmcguffin@charter.net) or 828-296-7544.

**Thurs, June 21 - BROADCAST** content submission deadline. Send your letters, articles, photographs to Scott Samson at [ki4gjs@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4gjs@yahoo.com).

**Thurs, June 28, 6:30pm - ThuD! (Thursday Dinner) at Stoneridge Tavern**, 1003 Brevard Rd, Asheville, NC. Menu: <http://www.http://thestoneridgetavern.com>. Contact Sharron Arnel, [sharronarnel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarnel@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.

Look for the Mensa "M" when you attend a French Broad Mensa activity.



## Ruffin It

Thanks for asking about the squirrel that fell down the chimney. The details are blurry, but I can tell you the denouement involved an open door, at least one broom, and a relieved rodent racing at near warp speed into the woods.

But did I ever tell you about Big Dog and Little Dog, the Oversized Cat . . . and the Mouse in the Bathtub?

It's a summer day in my ramshackle Alabama house. I'm working on my thesis but keep getting distracted by this strange "ploop" from the general direction of the bathroom. I go stomping in to see what the heck this noise is and open the door just in time to see . . . a mouse, rapidly disappearing down the bathtub drain, PLOOP!

And where's the cat when you need him? Outside playing with his dogs, or course. But all three are fierce mousers, so it seemed to me that if the cat cannot come to the mouse, the mouse should go to the cat.

So I go back inside, grab a ragged towel, and assume still-hunter mode. By the number of "ploops" I'd heard it was a sure bet Mr. Mousie would be back.

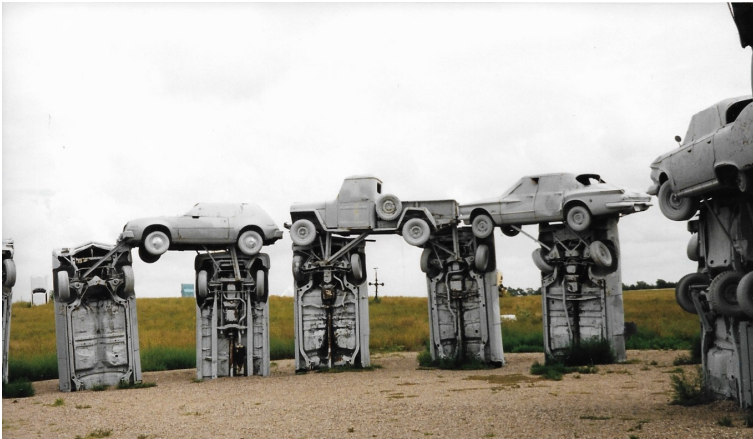
Yep. PLOOP! And he's back in the tub. So I drop the towel, get a firm grip on the wiggly lump in the middle, and head out back in search of cat and dogs.

They meet me the minute I get off the porch and quickly fixate on the object in my hands. I open the towel and let the mouse fall to the ground, expecting instant rodenticide. But my three fierce hunters remain fixated on the towel . . . and the mouse races right between Oversize Cat and Little Dog, straight through Big Dog's legs and safely into the woods.

They never even knew he was there.

--- Nel Ruffin

## And Then There is Carhenge



A life decision was in the air: travel 4,222 miles to Stonehenge or 422 miles to Carhenge. Since travel funds were limited, and a passport was not needed, it was off to Alliance, Nebraska to experience one of the wonders of the world --- Carhenge. Designed and built by Jim Reinders in 1987, Carhenge replicates the layout of Stonehenge. Go to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carhenge> for more information.

--- Scott Samson

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## One day in Rome

I went for a walk before dinner. As I walked in the plaza I felt something hit my shoulder. A bird dropped a huge, white splotch on my coat. I wiped it off and continued my walk. A young boy who wasn't watching where he was running slammed into me with his ice cream cone. I finally stopped at a restaurant for dinner. As I was sipping my wine the waiter brought me my meal. As he bent to put it on the table the spaghetti slid off the plate onto my lap.

After my dinner I was going back to the hotel near the top of the Spanish Steps. It was very dark, and I could hear running water. I stepped forward and put my right leg into a fountain. When I got to the hotel everyone in the lobby cracked up laughing.

Just a normal day for me.

---Ron Jones

## ***Financial Report and Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting***

### Financial Report for April 2018

Opening Balance:		\$4,101.62
Credits: American MENSA Contribution April 2018	\$116.75	
Total Credits:		\$334.80
Debits: None	\$0.00	
Total Debits:		\$0.00
Ending Balance:		\$4,218.37

--- Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

Held at 6pm at East Village Grill on Tunnel Road in Asheville

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

The group discussed newsletter and website issues:

- Need a webmaster; FBM will pay for the webmaster's annual dues.
- Facebook: Will manages Facebook, Nel manages Facebook group page, Scott manages web. Nel suggests new webmaster should manage all three and provide a "unified web presence."
- Need a newsletter editor; FBM will pay for the newsletter editor's annual dues.
- Need to articulate clear guidelines for submitting articles for publication.
- Scott will circulate instructions on a standard way of detailing edits.

New Members: How can we expand the roster of participating members? Might we welcome and introduce new members in the newsletter?

Upcoming Meetings:

ExComm, June 5, 6:00pm at the Village Wayside Bar & Grille, 30 Lodge Street in Asheville

Thu.D., June 28, 6:30pm at the Stone Ridge Tavern, 1003 Brevard Road in Asheville

Thu.D., July 27, 6:30pm at Chupacabra Latin Cafe, 50 N. Merrimon Ave Suite 101 in North Asheville (Reynolds Village)

Thu.D., August 24, 6:30pm at FarmBurger, 1831 Hendersonville Road in South Asheville

--- Sharron Armel, Deputy LocSec

## Germany

I was working with the German Air Ministry and lived in Sachsenhausen which is part of Frankfurt. Two stories.

I had a cat which jumped or fell out of a window. I lived on the second floor. When I saw that the cat fell I ran down the stairs and hurtled a picket fence. I didn't know I could do that. I know that I can't do that today. The cat landed in a bush and was OK.

While living there I went to a local restaurant. They only had tables for about 12 patrons. So, I sat at one. When traveling I usually sit alone and read. Soon I was surrounded by Germans who wanted to practice their English. They would tell the jokes in English that made no sense, but all the Germans laughed. I sat across from a young couple. We had a fun conversation. They told me that they were getting married on the next weekend in a castle where they met. They asked me to come to their wedding. I accepted not really knowing what I was to do. They told me to pack for two nights and not to offer any gifts. I was to meet them at a pier on the Main river on Friday. I did and discovered that I was the only Auslander there. It took about three hours by boat to get to the castle. We had a wonderful day seeing the sights and then had a fantastic meal. Then everyone retired to their rooms. The wedding was the next day. It was wonderful even though the wedding was all in German. If it had happened a few years later, I could have understood more because I learned some German.

This was another of my memorable travel experiences.

--Ron Jones





## Trivial Report

The Whoos had only five players to compete against 15 teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in May.

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

### Round One: Theme -- Fruits and vegetables

1. Pamplemousse is French for what citrus fruit?
2. In 1792, Captain Bligh delivered what plants to Jamaica?
3. What vegetable is also known as kohlwort?
4. In what country are prickly pears and the natives called sabra?
5. Half of the sugar in the U.S. comes from what plant?
6. In the U.S., golden raisins are made from what variety of grapes?
7. Which state produces 80% of the strawberries?
8. Poi is made from the mashed root of what plant?
9. What small green vegetable is the main ingredient in salsa verde?
10. What variety of an English vegetable is seedless?

We answered 8 of the 10 correctly and were in first place by 7 points.

### Round Two: Theme -- Organizations

1. Founded in 1868, Sorusros was an organization of what?
  2. In 30 B.C., what pair founded the society of those who died together?
  3. What international organization has a cog for its symbol?
  4. What organization in lower Manhattan awards the Heisman trophy?
  5. What nonpolitical, non sectarian organization founded in 1819 is know as IOOF?
- Extra. What is the women's auxiliary of IOOF called.
6. Don Herbert founded what TV science club in 1954?
  7. The Key Club is the high school division of what organization?
  8. John Muir founded what organization in San Francisco?
  9. What young men's Knight Templar organization is sponsored by the Masons?
  10. The Gideon Bible is published by Thomas Nelson in what state?

We got 10 of the 11 right and were still in first place by 7 points.



### Round Three: Theme -- Speed Round

We were given a sheet of questions that must be completed in 5 minutes. The first part was called movie math. We had to identify two movies with numbers in their title then had to add, subtract, divide, or multiply to get the answer. The second part gave a list of super heroes. We had to name the comic book series in which they appeared. It was a disaster. We only got 4 correct. We did not get any of the comic book answers. We fell to fifth place. Nine points behind the leader.

### Round Four: Theme -- Potpourri

1. Sapien in "homo sapiens" means what?
2. Cholera affects what organ?
3. Which of the following has the three tallest statues in the world: Jesus, Buddha, a political figure, or a goddess?
4. Which railroad spike steel driver died after beating a steam driven driver?
5. What famous plastic sheet material was invented in 1918?
6. What dark ale was named after doormen and luggage carriers?
7. The Castillo Rodrigo Diaz is better known as who?

Extra. What event on June 25, 2009 caused Twitter to crash?

8. What is the name of the salt flats in Utah used to set speed records?
9. White chocolate is made from sugar, salt, milk solids and what other ingredient?
10. Beatrix became the Queen of what country in 1980?

We answered 10 of the 11 correctly but finished in seventh place 10 points behind the leader.

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#### Bed in Summer

*In winter I get up at night  
And dress by yellow candle-light.  
In summer, quite the other way,  
I have to go to bed by day.*

--- Robert Louis Stevenson

#### Fireflies in the Garden

*Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,  
And here on earth come emulating flies*

--- Robert Frost

## Answers for the Trivial Report

### Round 1: Theme -- Fruits and vegetables

1. Grapefruit; 2. Breadfruit (Wayne); 3. Collards; 4. Israel; 5. Beet; 6. Thompson; 7. California (Karen); 8. Taro (Sharron); 9. Tomatilla; 10. Cucumber.

### Round 2: Theme -- Organizations

1. Women; 2. Antony and Cleopatra; 3. Rotary (Will); 4. Downtown Athletic Club (Wayne); 5. Odd Fellows (Will); Extra. Rebeccas; 6. Mr. Wizard; 7. Kiwanis; 8. Sierra Club; 9. DeMolay (Sharron); 10. Tennessee (Will).

### Round 4: Theme -- Potpourri

1. Thinking (Sharron); 2. Lower intestine (Will); 3. Buddha; 4. John Henry; 5. Formica (Will); 6. Porter; 7. El Cid; Extra. The death of Michael Jackson (Wayne) 8. Bonneville; 9. Cocoa butter (Wayne); 10. Holland (Karen).

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### Mensa Games Online

If you find yourself trapped in the airport waiting 4 hours for your next flight or watching out the window as the ever present summer rain cancels your softball game, take advantage of the games available to members on Mensa's *Game Room* website (<https://www.us.mensa.org/play/games/>). Prepare yourself for bored kids during summer vacation with games and activities on Mensa for Kids (<https://www.mensaforkids.org/>).



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Membership Coordinator.....Position open

### **Submissions to the Broadcast**

Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 21st of the month preceding publication. Original material is welcomed. Maximum length of 250 words. 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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