

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 24, No. 7 July 2018

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



I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice.

--- Roland A. Browne

Regional Vice Chairman Column

As I write this in mid-June, I am becoming increasingly excited about the upcoming Mensa Annual Gathering in Indianapolis. The main reason is it offers the opportunity to hang out with other Mensans, especially those from Region 5. This year's Meet and Greet will be on Friday, July 6 at 3pm.

This year the AMC meeting will be on Thursday 7/5, while the Annual Business Meeting will take place on Friday at 10am. Both of these meetings give Mensans the opportunity to see how Mensa business operates.

It's time to start making plans for Mensa in Georgia's RG, taking place September 28 – 30. For more information you can check out their website:
<http://georgia.us.mensa.org/generalinfo.html>.

If you are not getting your local group newsletter by e-mail, I encourage you to go to the National Website and change your preferences. You won't get spam, but you will be able to get notifications about what's happening in your local group. To do so: after you log into the American Mensa website, click on "My Mensa", then "My Membership Profile". On the right side of that page you will see a box entitled "My Account Links". If you click on "My Communication Profile", edit "Publication Preferences" and edit it to get your local newsletter electronically. By doing this, you will make life easier for your local group Editor and save your group a little money each month. While there, you might as well check your other preferences to make sure that they are up to date. Last year, when the National Office moved to a new association management system, some members discovered that their preferences had changed.

While you are at "My Mensa," you might want to check out "Member Benefits". I've mentioned in previous columns how Mensans have saved money using Geico, Choice Hotels and car rental companies. I know members who have traveled with Road Scholar. You can even get a discount on pet insurance. If you use some of these benefits you may save more money than the cost of your dues.

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**French Broad Mensa
July 2018 Events Calendar**

Please note ThuD! is now at 6pm.

Tues, July 3, 6pm - ExCom Meeting at Atlanta Bread Company, 484 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville, NC. Menu: <https://atlantabread.com>. Contact Scott Samson, ki4gjs@yahoo.com or 662-769-1654.

Fri, July 6, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at TGI Fridays, 115 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville. Menu: <https://www.tgifridays.com>. Contact Fae Armstrong, one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-298-1707.

Mon, July 9 - 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.

Thurs, July 19 - BROADCAST content submission deadline. Send your letters, articles, photographs to Sharron Armel, sharronarmel@gmail.com or 828-280-6234.

Thurs, July 26, 6pm - ThuD! (Thursday Dinner) at Farm Burger, 1831 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC. Menu: <http://www.http://farmburger.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.

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



Sean Porach Awarded a Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship

Sean Porach, Asheville, is the recipient of a 2018 Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship. Sean's essay is presented below.

Everyone must find their own *raison d'être*--one's purpose for existence. Without it, we are perpetually searching for one, dissatisfied with the monotony of a placid life. I have always known my *raison d'être* would live in the world of STEM.

Growing up as a highly energetic kid, with an incredibly smart and funny brother on the autism spectrum, and idiosyncratic bookworm parents, life was far from ordinary. This environment fed my creative mind and allowed me to develop knowledge in engineering, computer science, and plant



biology--and to reinforce interests with academic and extra-curricular experiences. My research, years on robotics teams, and extracurricular activities have afforded me important skills. As a robotics team member, I collaborated with others, and worked on projects independently. As a summer mentor, I promoted robot and team-building, and encouraged and challenged prospective members to think about implementations in practice.

I am thankful to have attended the North Carolina School of Science and Math, as I have earned many opportunities to practice leadership. This past year, I committed to co-founding an Entomology Club. In this role, I am working to engage distinguished speakers, to increase active membership, and most importantly, to modify and to build global warming simulation chambers on campus. As a Science Communicator in our school, I have written for Duke University's Research blog, promoting science-related topics--something I am only

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now comfortable with, after speaking and writing about my own research.

For most of my junior year, as a Glaxo Summer Research Fellow, and the beginning of my senior year, I conducted research studying drought effect on the photosynthetic activity of a specific kind of plant. I credit this experience with teaching me more practical and life skills than anything I had done previously. As a mentor for the next wave of research students, I am learning how to teach and how to advise. So far, I've planned and taught three lessons, and each time I've learned more about preparation.

These experiences have developed skills transferable towards a career in a company on the cutting edge of technology--a career at the cross-section of all my interests--engineering, computer science, and biology. Companies like Deep Genomics or SpaceX, where changing the game is their game, and where complex questions are being asked and actively answered. I have applied to college programs that will feed my hunger for creation, and provide robust interdisciplinary opportunities that could nourish each of my interests.

It is too early in my academic career to know exactly where I will work or what exactly I will be doing. However, I do have a very clear understanding of who I am, how I work, and what I want. I hope for a career where I can have opportunities to create, and I will seek out a company that values the perfection in the process of discovery--one that thinks about the community of things, and finding the truth in the journey.

French Broad Mensa Financial Report

Financial Report for May 2018

Opening Balance:		\$4,218.37
Credits: American MENSA Contribution May 2018	\$100.45	
Total Credits:		\$100.45
Debits: Check 625	\$118.41	
Total Debits:		\$118.41
Ending Balance:		\$4,200.41

--- Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

Minutes from the June 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

Held at 6pm at Village Wayside Bar & Grill in Biltmore Village

Present: Scott Samson, Nel Ruffin, Sharron Armel, Fae Armstrong, Will McGuffin, Wayne Stanko

New Members: The group reviewed a previous decision to send printed \$5 coupons to new members, to encourage them to attend one of the group meals. Sharron agreed to design a coupon and send to Scott for approval by Friday June 8.

Discussion Groups: Fae Armstrong suggested the written rules for discussion groups she had previously distributed via email. The rules are drawn from several sources, and comply with Mensa guidelines. No objections were raised; no additions or corrections were offered.

Further, the members talked over several questions to be answered to help make the discussion groups successful:

- Will a topic be chosen ahead of time?
- Will the discussion begin with "Favorite books" and see where the conversation goes?
- Will the group meet monthly? Bimonthly?
- The committee agreed to let the group decide on their next steps.

First meeting: August 19, 3:00pm, at Fae's new apartment, 50 Gerber Road #209.

Lecture Series: Resuming a lecture series sponsored by FBM has been discussed over the past few months. Fae has agreed to collect information on possible speakers; all suggestions should be sent to Fae at one4fae2@yahoo.com. Fae will organize the information and submit an article (or list) each month to the newsletter editor.

Newsletter: FBM still needs a newsletter editor to maintain an enjoyable and informative communication stream among members. Nel agreed to draft an ad to appear in the next issue of the Broadcast. In the meantime, please submit cover art (original and non-copyrighted) to Scott for possible use in future issues of the Broadcast.

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HELP!
(wanted)

The *Broadcast* needs a permanent editor. Maybe you've thought about volunteering but weren't sure exactly what the job entails. Here, in brief, are the qualities and capabilities needed.

- Ability to meet deadlines
- An eye for visual composition and balance
- Reasonable knowledge of, or willingness to learn, any of the numerous desktop publishing software packages
- Solid knowledge of spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Judgment required to fix glaring errors without succumbing to the urge to over-correct submissions, rendering the piece technically correct but in essence altering the author's individual voice
- Highly desirable: the ability to cajole and/or suggest content from the membership

It's easy to think "somebody else" is going to do it, but despite the ExCom's and former Editor's genteel pleas no one has stepped forward. This is not a time to be shy! If you have a hankering to try your hand at editing, please contact Local Secretary Sharron Armel, sharronarmel@gmail.com or 828-280-6234. We're an easygoing group that will have plenty of patience while you hone your skills.

(ExCom minutes, continued from page 6)

Upcoming Meetings:

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

ExComm, July 3, 6:30pm at Atlanta Bread Company, 484 Hendersonville Road in Asheville

First Friday Lunch: July 6, 11:30am; Fae will schedule and provide details

Thu.D., July 27, 6pm at Chupacabra Latin Cafe, 50 N. Merrimon Ave Suite 101 in North Asheville (Reynolds Village) Please RSVP to SharronArmel@gmail.com

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

Respectfully submitted by Sharron Armel

Trivial Report

The Whoos had only seven players to compete against 14 teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in June.

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

The theme of the first round was codes.

1. What is the C word for writing ciphering code?
2. What computer error code is an homage to a 1953 novel?
3. What 1804 code claimed women had no rights?
4. Beshido Samurai code of ethics governs what?
5. Whose code claimed an eye for an eye?
6. What is the word for the Sicilian code of silence?

Extra. In the movie "The Christmas Story" Ralphie decodes the secret message that tells him to drink what?

7. Which 1980s movie starring Patrick Swayze and Charlie Sheen received the first PG-13 rating?
8. In 1999 the British museum displayed what decoding relic?
9. The Little Boy atomic bomb was dropped on what city?
10. In 2006 Judge Peter Smith ruled this author's novel about a secret code did not violate copyright laws?

We answered 10 of the eleven questions correctly. We were in first place by 2 points.

The theme of the second round was pardons.

1. Who was pardoned for all crimes on 9/8/74?
2. Who was the "Robin Hood of Scotland" who was pardoned in 1727?
3. What country singer who served time in San Quentin was pardoned in 1972?
4. Who pardoned Vietnam war protesters on 1/21/77?
5. In 2003, what comedian was pardoned 37 years after his death?
6. Madison pardoned what pirate after the Battle of New Orleans?
7. What Yankee owner was pardoned for violation of election contributions?

Extra. In 1893 John Peter Altgelt of what state pardoned the Hay Market rioters?

8. George Bush pardoned what 91 year old for campaign violations?

9. Who was pardoned two hours after he shot Jesse James?
10. What doctor was pardoned in 1869 for treating John Wilkes Booth?

We again got 10 of 11 right. Our lead was now four points.

The third round is the speed round. We had five minutes to answer questions on a sheet of paper. The first part gave a list of fictional characters. We had to identify the weapons they used. For example, Harry Callahan used a 44 Magnum. In the second part we had to identify the third word in a phrase from a book, poem or song. We did not do very well getting only 7 of 12 correct. We were now in fourth place trailing the leader by two points.

The theme of the fourth round was potpourri.

1. Jenner developed a vaccine for smallpox after studying what female agricultural trade?
2. The global climate change agreement was named after what Japanese city?
3. What age occurred from 3600-30 BC: Stone, bronze, iron, or middle?
4. Memphis Tennessee is named after an ancient city in what country?
5. What pottery pioneer made cream ware and jasper ware?
6. Atoms that have the same number of protons and electrons but a different number of neutrons are called what?
- Extra. Bees, wozzles, and jagulars are in what author's book?
7. What London brewery founded in 1787 has a rooster icon on the Tower Bridge?
8. A word type is derived from what French word for melt?
9. Corkscrew, emmelmon roll, bat wing, and hammerhead are terms for what entertainment type?
10. The western border of U.S and Mexico runs through what desert?

We answered 9 of the 11 correctly. We ended tied for third place two points behind the leader. Third place does not win any prizes.

Willaim James Sidis (1898 - 1944) is considered to have had an IQ between 250 and 300, 50 to 100 points higher than Albert Einstein's. At the age of 5, he could speak 6 languages. Sidis was denied admission to Harvard at the age of 6 but was later admitted when he was 11 after he gave a lecture on 4-dimensional physics!

Answers for the Trivial Report

Round One

1. Cryptography; 2. 451 (Sharron); 3. Napoleonic (Will); 4. Chivalry (Robert);
5. Hammurabi (Pat); 6. Omerta (Sharron); Extra. Ovaltine (Will); 7. Red Dawn; 8.
Rosetta Stone (Wayne); 9. Hiroshima; 10. Dan Brown (Wayne).

Round Two

1. Nixon; 2. Rob Roy (Pat); 3. Merle Haggard (Robert); 4. Jimmy Carter; 5. Lenny Bruce;
6. Lafitte; 7. George Steinbrenner (Wayne); Extra. Illinois; 8. Armand Hammer (Robert);
9. Robert Ford (Wayne); 10. Samuel Mudd.

Round Four

1. Milk maid (Will); 2. Kyoto (Robert); 3. Bronze; 4. Egypt; 5. Wedgwood (Pat);
6. Isotopes; Extra. A. A. Milne (Robert); 7. Courage; 8. Font; 9. Roller coasters; 10.
Sonora (Robert).

(RVC Column, continued from page 2)

As the heat rises, don't let your involvement in your local group fall. Attend a dinner, a meeting, a lunch, a picnic, or whatever it is that your local group is doing. Who knows who you will see there.

Have a great summer. What happens in Indianapolis won't necessarily stay in Indianapolis. In my next column, I'll let you know what kind of fun we had. If you can't attend this year's AG, I hope that you will be able to do so in the future. It's always a great time and well worth the trip. Next year in Phoenix!

--- Baker Ring



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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 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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