

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 27, No. 5, May 2021

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



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Submissions to the Broadcast

Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of each month preceding publication. Original material is welcomed. Maximum length is 250 words. Editor reserves the right to decline publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning are retained.

Please, no personal attacks, except against the Editor (if you so choose). The Editor would be so very glad to hear from you that she will tolerate (but not necessarily publish) nearly anything!

**Events Calendar
May 2021**

August IN-PERSON picnic is planned!

We'll keep you updated!

Monday, May 3, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

At Luella's Barbecue, 501 Merrimon Ave. in North Asheville

Reservations required by May 1; contact SharronArmel@gmail.com

Thursday, April 15 through May

15: Vote for American Mensa

officers. If you paid your dues by

March 31, you're eligible to vote.

Don't forget, our RVC-5, Nancy

Campbell, is running for re-election.



All regular and special events are open to members in good standing.



Stay Safe

Stay Healthy

Stay Connected

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

Regional Vice-Chairman's Message



Spring is finally here! I received my ballot for the National Elections today, and will be voting later today. The deadline is May 15th. Don't miss it!!

Plans are going forward for the World Gathering scheduled for Houston, TX on August 24-29, 2021. Have you registered yet? (It is a *World* Gathering, not just the U.S., and Europeans tend to vacation in August.) Here's the link:

<https://ag.us.mensa.org/> Prices increase again on July 31st, so register now!!

September 10-12, 2021 will bring Peachtree 45 in Duluth, GA, outside Atlanta. The theme is Heaven and Hell. They are expecting that this September will certainly feel like Heaven compared with last September. Prices rise again on July 6, so register now. Learn more and register at <http://ga.us.mensa.org/generainfo.html>

Also, Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa is planning on holding their annual RG from November 12-14, 2021. They're back this year with *Nothing Could be Finer!* Channel your inner Southern Belle or Southern Gentry, explore the history of the Carolinas, and discover the distinct identity of the South! Featuring speakers, youth programming, a games room, and possibly even a debate room, this year's RG promises to be a grand experience! They'll also be offering an off-site excursion to the NASCAR Hall of Fame for the race car enthusiasts. Prices rise again on July 1, so register now! Go to <https://cbrmensa.org/rg/>

Several local groups have added small in-person gatherings to their calendars, and some groups have started testing in person again (with masks and social distancing.) Most groups are sticking with online meetings for now, but the time is not far off now when we can safely meet in person, as the number of people who have been vaccinated grows. Even if you have been vaccinated, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and stay a safe social distance from other people. This too shall pass... though we are not sure just when!!!

Nancy Campbell, 704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Local Secretary's Message

Will 2021 be the year we get back to normal? Or are we approaching the much-clichéd “new normal”? Vaccination and continued health precautions are opening up more possibilities for in-person events. What would YOU like to see French Broad Mensa do?

Don't forget to vote – by May 15 -- in the American Mensa elections (more info on page 3).



Welcome to members who have joined, returned, or moved into our area in 2021:

Marie Chamberlin

Lyn Donley

Philip Griswold

Carlos Holsonback

Matthew James

Nolan Prescott

Joy Ruhe

Farewell and best wishes to ***Michael Fletcher***, who has moved out of our group.

And Happy May Birthdays to:

Sharron Armel

Mark Evans

Matthew James

Trenton McDevitt

William McGuffin

Diego Rivera

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com



Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Gabbie hears your woes and offers advice. Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the *BROADCAST* Editor.



Dere Gabbie,

Lately I've bin gettin lots of fone calls from peeple I don't no, sum of em with my own area code for op'ners too. Sum of em ask for donations to help my bes friend's cusin. Sum of em start out tellin me they have answers to thangs I never did ask bout. Wad I wanna no is, how shud I do wit em? Shud I push the button?

Have a blessed day, y'all.

Dear Blesser,

Gosh! I hardly know where to begin with this one. I get so many calls myself, including some like you say you get. Wow! I guess it's really catching on, this calling people you don't know for money.

Ever hear the word "SCAM?" Not SCRAM, like "Get the hell outta my yard!" No, I'm talking about a scam like a trick, like a prank or some such to get cash out of your pocket and into the caller's. There's lots of people earning their living that way nowadays, especially all those Nigerian princes. They must really be broke over there. I wonder what they spend all their riches on anyways.

Gabbie goes on...

I tell you what, Blesser. Next time you get one of those calls, report it to the FBI. I think they're in the phone book or online. It don't matter if the FBI is looking for you neither, 'cause you can call anonymously. (Just use your girlfriend's phone in case they trace the call.)

Those callers are just out to get your money, that's all. They're crooks, plain and simple. Even you know what I mean, right? Don't push the button! Don't send them any more money! And don't give them anyone else's phone number either!

That's the best advice I've got for you today. I get this stuff from an "Authorized Agency of Your Federal Government," so it's got to be good info.

Good luck getting your money back.

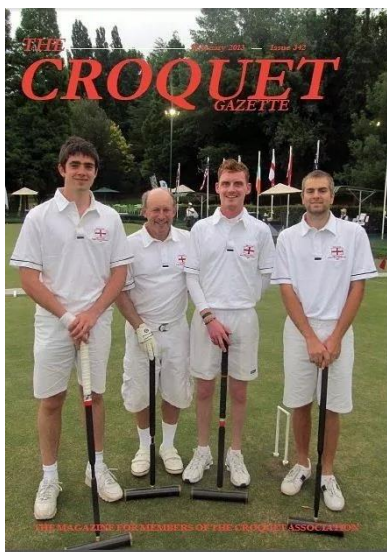
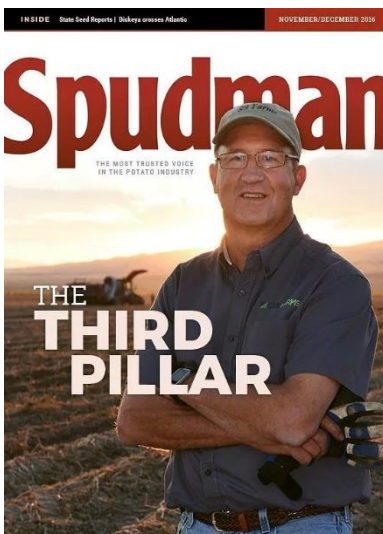
Pathetically,

Gabbie



Magazines?

If we have to stay at home much longer, these magazines might start to look interesting...



Ham Radio

by ***Bea Ready***

During times of disaster or crisis, many forms of communication such as cell phones, landlines, and the internet could fail. The one form that should still be available is ham radio. Wouldn't you like to be one of the people licensed to operate radios during such times?

You can and should get licensed! The life you save might be your own or someone you love.

Ham radio is amateur radio. You need a license to operate a radio on public airwaves. The FCC has allocated a section of these airwaves just for amateurs. There are three levels of licenses – Technician, General, and Amateur Extra. The entry-level Technician license requires just a little bit of studying and no great expense. You can get an entry level ham radio for under \$100, the 35-question test costs \$10, and you should buy a book to prepare for the test.

Here are the steps:

1. Get your federal FCC Registration Number (FRN). It's free, and you have to have it to get a ham license. You get the FRN number as soon as you fill out the form online. Here's the link:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>

2. Get the book entitled: ARRL TECH Q&A 7TH EDITION # 0864. You can get it for less than \$20 at this website:

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-016209>

3. Watch this video on youtube.com:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wwnOPaF1qI>

4. Find an Amateur Radio License Exam in Your Area

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

The test costs \$10, and you have to bring your FRN and a photo ID with you.

OGG-HAY ILD-WAY or Invasive Species – Feral Hogs *by Josie*

Way back in the 1500s, some European explorers brought pigs with them to feed the settlers. Of course, some little piggies escaped and some were released. After a mere 600 years, the feral pig population exploded and have become the source of over a billion dollars of destruction to farms, forests, yards, and they carry disease with them, too. Take a look at what they did to this field:



Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture, CC BY 2.0
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Commons

Here is some further reading about feral hogs in North Carolina

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Feral-Swine>

If you see one or more, please report them to the State of North Carolina:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/bce8e3a80f184710bb2e4990a3c82af4>

10 Huge Hogs You Have to See to Believe

<https://guide.sportsmansguide.com/10-huge-hogs-you-have-to-see-to-believe/>

Is Wild Hog Meat Safe To Eat?

<https://hohuntingforbeginners.com/is-wild-hog-meat-safe-to-eat/>

Horrible Pig Story

Somebody callously tossed a grown pig off the top of the 110-story Willis Tower building in Chicago. Everyone was horrified as they watched, but then to the relief of all, the swine flu.

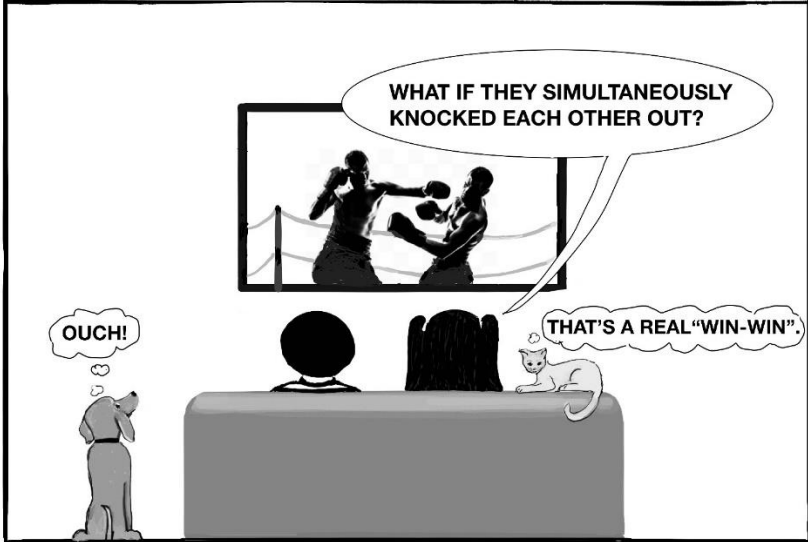
HELP WANTED!

Can you provide some cover art for future *BROADCASTS*? Something beautiful, something funny, something thought-provoking? It's YOUR newsletter, and it can be better with your input.

Questions or comments to *SharronArmel@gmail.com*

Smart Alec

with
Sirius & Zany



BettyHass 2021

Smart Alec

with
Sirius & Zany



BettyHass
2021

Executive Committee Report

The ExComm members and advisors (***Sharron Armel, Johanna Dokter, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko***) met at Tupelo Honey South on April 6. This was our first in-person meeting in over a year!

We decided to resume distribution of the printed BROADCAST, beginning with the May issue.

We made further plans for the August picnic, which will be a combined celebration of safer gatherings, the 25th anniversary of French Broad Mensa, and an early (or late, depending on your point of view) holiday extravaganza!

Submitted by
Grace Lehto
Deputy Local Secretary

You may suggest topics for future agendas by emailing SharronArmel@gmail.com.



Photo by Michael Havelin: (L to R) Grace Lehto, Sharron Armel, Will McGuffin, Wayne Stanko, and Johanna Dokter's elbow.

Treasurer's Report

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Opening Balance at February 28, 2021 | | 2021 | \$ 5,581.99 |
| Receipts: | | | |
| | Am. MENSA Monthly Subsidy | \$ 126.95 | |
| Total Receipts | | | \$ 126.95 |
| Disbursements: | | | |
| | Broadcast editor annual dues | \$ 79.00 | |
| | Broadcast printer annual dues | \$ 79.00 | |
| | Ex.Comm. Election expense | \$ 74.25 | |
| Total Disbursements | | | \$ 232.25 |
| Closing Balance at March 31, 2021 | | | \$ 5,476.69 |

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer





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S.I.G.H.T.

Lizz Russell lizz@dnet.net

Membership Coordinator Position Open



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