

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 27, No. 7, July 2021

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

Have you looked UP lately?



One of *Gabbie's* fans has...
check it out on page 8!

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Cover Image by
Michael Havelin

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.

There's Always Something to CELEBRATE!

Celebrate July 2021

				1  Canada Day	2  World UFO Day	3  National Eat Beans Day
4  Independence Day	5  National Bikini Day	6  National Kissing Day	7  National Macaroni Day	8  National Chocolate & Almonds Day	9  National Sugar Cookie Day	10  National Kitten Day
11  National Blueberry Muffin Day	12  National Pecan Pie Day	13  National French Fry Day	14  Bastille Day	15  National Give Something Away Day	16  World Snake Day	17  National Tattoo Day
18  National Ice Cream Day	19  National Daiquiri Day	20  National Lollipop Day	21  National Hot Dog Day	22  National Hammock Day	23  Lumberjack Day	24  National Day of the Cowboy
25  Carousel Day	26  Bagelfest Day	27  National Scotch Day	28  National Waterpark Day	29  National Lipstick Day	30  National Cheesecake Day	31  National Avocado Day

**FBM Events Calendar
July 2021**

Friday, July 2, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

At TGI Fridays, 115 Hendersonville Road in Asheville
Reservations required by July 1; contact Fae Armstrong
one4fae2@yahoo.com or (828)575-0121

Monday, July 5, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

At Sierra Nevada Taproom, 100 Sierra Nevada Way in Fletcher
Reservations required by June 1; contact SharronArmel@gmail.com

Thursday, July 22, 6pm: Thu.D! at Cinnamon Kitchen Indian

Cuisine, 1838 Hendersonville Road in South Asheville
Reservations required by July 20; contact SharronArmel@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, August 19

Combination Picnic,
FBM Anniversary Celebration,
& Holiday Party!



All regular and special Mensa events are open to members in good standing. RSVPs are important for table planning, and many public eateries are still being cautious about capacity. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, we might not be able to seat you.

Stay Safe

Stay Healthy

Stay Connected

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

Regional Vice-Chairman's Message

Well, a new American Mensa Committee takes office July 1, 2021, including yours truly as Regional Vice Chair for Region 5 (RVC 5.) And for the first time, we will have three year terms instead of two year terms. Region 5 is the Southeast Region, including the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. There are twenty local groups in our region – some regions only have seven to ten. I have already visited ten of our groups before COVID hit and closed everything down. Now I'll have a chance to visit the other ten, then start the process over again. If you want to rise to the top of the list, invite me! I'd love to help your group grow and thrive!



Mensa's International Constitution states that Mensa has three purposes: 1) to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity. 2) to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence. 3) to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Our local groups tend to focus on that last one – the social aspects. Members who live in large metropolitan areas usually have a variety of meetings to go to (pre- and post-COVID.) For members who live far from the bulk of the Mensa membership in an area, there is Isolated-M, an online group that provides a website and newsletter for members. They can be accessed at isolated.com . Many local groups set up Zoom meetings during social-distancing. I hope you will continue to offer regular Zoom meetings after the quarantining is over.

The Mensa Foundation was founded to address the first two purposes stated above. It is very much a part of Mensa: they share office space; the Board of the Foundation is, by Bylaws, the same as the voting membership of the AMC; Mensa volunteers judge the scholarship essays for the \$150,000 plus that the Foundation awards in scholarships every year; and American Mensa donates about \$1 per member per

year to support the work of the Foundation. The Mensa Foundation publishes a Research Journal, hosts the Colloquium every year, and provides the mensaforkids.org website. Donations are warmly appreciated!

Ian Strock, who was RVC 1 for the past two years and is our newly-elected Secretary on the AMC, provided this Glossary in his monthly RVC column.

AMC: American Mensa Committee; the national board of directors.

AG: American Mensa's once-a-year, five-day Annual Gathering, featuring the Annual Business Meeting, more than a hundred speakers, and more than a thousand Mensans.

ExCom: Executive Committee, in some groups known as Board of Directors: the members who have volunteered and been elected to take care of the day-to-day business of operating a local group. This is the local group version of the AMC.

GY and GYC: Gifted Youth and Gifted Youth Coordinator

LocSec: Local Secretary, aka president: the elected leader of a local group (the name comes from our British roots).

RG: Regional Gathering: a weekend-long get-together hosted by a local group featuring speakers, games, events, and more, with 100 to 400 of your closest friends you haven't met yet.

RVC: Regional Vice Chairman: a member of the AMC with responsibility for a specific region of American Mensa.

YAM: Young Adult Mensan: members in their twenties and thirties.

YM: Young Mensan: teenage members and those younger.

Got a suggestion or a gripe? I am always open to your ideas and comments. You can reach me at rvc5mail@gmail.com or 704-533-3351 (afternoons and evenings.)

Nancy Campbell, RVC

Local Secretary's Message

FBM congratulates *Nancy Campbell* on her re-election as our region's Vice Chairman!

More good news – FBM is starting to get together in person again! Big plans are in the works for our August picnic.

Our group had 123 members at mid-June. We have no new, returning, or rejoining members this month, and we bid farewell and best wishes to *Erica Erickson*, who has moved out of our group.



And Happy July Birthdays to:

Pat Benard

John Bulgin

Kathryn Cole

David Diehn

Ronald Jones

Robert Nelson

John Runnberg

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com

ONLINE MENSA TESTING

Mensa now offers private testing at an approved local site: College Place in downtown Asheville. This option offers some unique benefits:

- Convenient, flexible scheduling
- Private testing environment
- Exam administered electronically
- Receive exam results in days

More info is available on the American Mensa website.

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

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



Dearest Gabbie,

Dear I've heard that the Pentagon is finally going to tell us citizens all the info they've gathered since the Roswell UFO crash back in 1947. Me and my friends are all excited that we're finally gonna get the truth and maybe even see the alien bodies. Wow! How's 'bout that!

UFO fan

Dear Fan,

Get with it! It's not a UFO any more. The military now calls them Unidentified Aerial Phenomena or UAP. Has a ring to it if you say it fast 30 times. Or just call it more Official Government Doubletalk (OGD).

But seriously (and I mean it this time), UFO or UAP or OGD, it doesn't matter. The facts are clear: we're being visited by intelligently controlled flying things made of metal and full of who knows what. Don't kid yourself... the gov't nabobs ain't gonna tell you everything they know. They'll release some of their info, and maybe even show you some cool pictures, but that's all just low level "secret" stuff. Don't you know that there are secret levels above that? There's "Secret Top Secret" and "Top Top Secret" and at the very tippy top there's the MAGIC-12 (Majestic-12) stuff that even the President isn't allowed to see. Hey wait a minute... who's controlling all this stuff anyway? You think

Gabbie goes on...

it's the Pentagoons? I mean, if the Pres can't see, then there's gotta be something weird going on, doncha think?

So sit back and enjoy the show, but don't crumple up your aluminum foil hat just yet. In fact, I'm gonna recycle mine and make an entire tin foil suit for myself in case I get deducted, I mean abducted, or some other kind of ducted that they don't even have a word for yet. I'd advise you to do the same.

You know all those weird people you meet now and again? Do you think that maybe some of them might be... Nah. Couldn't happen, right? But keep your eyes peeled just in case.

Gabbie



Are you ready to have a great time in person with other Mensans?

Brilliance By the Bay is happening in November in the beautiful city of San Jose. We can talk together, eat together, listen to wonderful speakers, and participate in games and activities. Maybe even give old friends a big hug. (Or at least an elbow bump.)

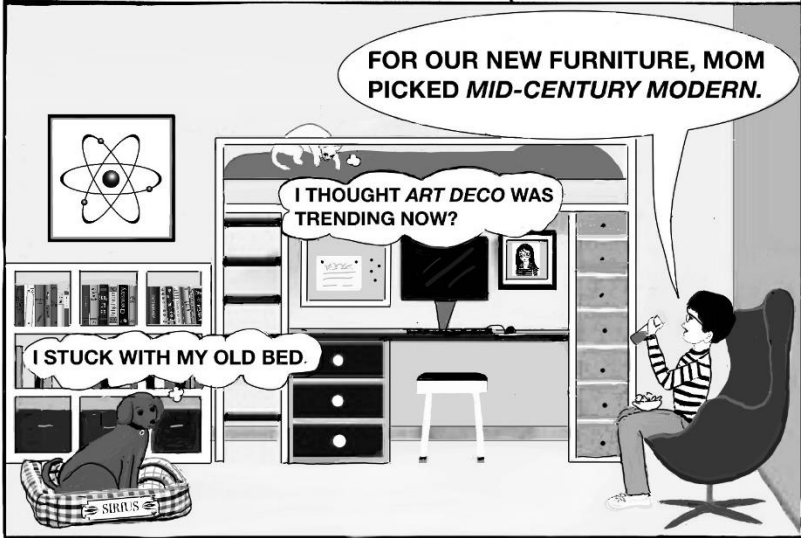
We will be in a safe hotel obeying all regulations for health concerns. So, leave your worries behind and join us for three brilliant days by the bay.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.sfmensa.org/events/gatherings/rg2021/>

Smart Alec

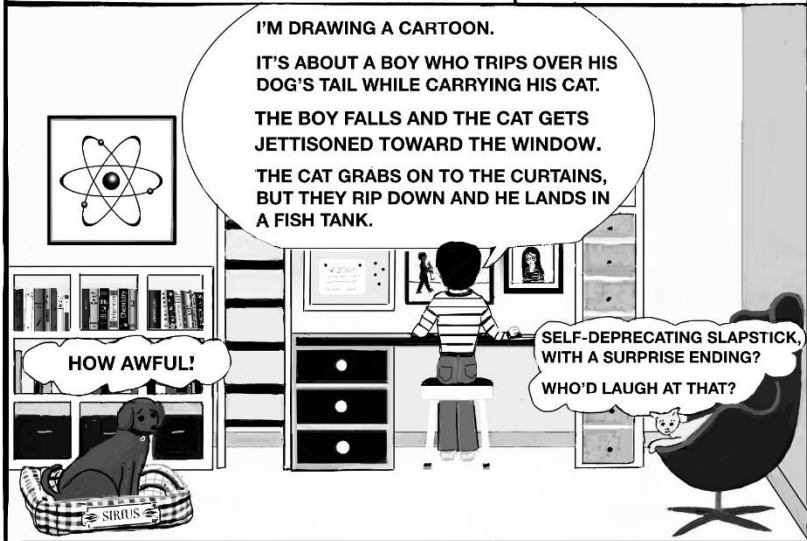
with
Sirius & Zany



BettyHass 2021

Smart Alec

with
Sirius & Zany



BettyHass 2021

Emergency Communications Using Your Cell Phone

by Lizz Russell

How can you use your cell phone when you are hiking in the backwoods or you cannot connect to the internet because there's been a hurricane or an earthquake or a crazy hacker?

There's an app for that!

You can turn your cell phone into a Push-to-Talk Walkie Talkie.

Some of the apps that help you do this are Zello Walkie-Talkie, HeyTell, Two-Way Walkie Talkie, FireChat, Voxxer, BreakR, Bridgefy, and Intercom for Android. There are others. Some are free. Some of them require a payment if used for commercial purposes.

You have to download the app and have it on your phone before you don't have internet. Of course, you would also want to download the same app to the cell phones of the people you would want to contact.

In addition, you might want to consider getting a hand-crank cell phone charger. There are also solar and car chargers that are readily available, but they require sun or a battery. Why limit yourself?

There are videos on how to make your own hand crank charger.



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Ham Radio - Fox Hunt

by *Bea Reddy*



Our ham radio club hid a transmitter, and we had to track it around the mountains. It was called a fox hunt, and the hidden transmitter was the fox.

Since this was my very first fox hunt, I teamed up with an experienced ham radio operator. (Note: An experienced ham operator that helps a newbie is called an “Elmer.”)

Did you ever see one of those nature shows where they track animals with an antenna that looks like an antenna made with PVC? My Elmer had a tracking antenna like that, and he drove.

To make it more complicated, the man that organized the hunt had the fox moving around town in the beginning.

There were many, many attempts to pinpoint the source of the signal. Each attempt required going up to the highest ground we could get to, getting out of the vehicle, and holding that antenna thingamajiggie in the air while circling around to find the direction of the fox. Anyone who saw us was probably wondering what on earth was going on.

Several times we lost the signal completely, and then it would suddenly reappear. Mountains don't help anything when it comes to tracking!

Finally we were headed in the right direction. The signal kept getting stronger and stronger. And it became really, really strong in one location, but no fox. But then we went one road further, and at the end of that road, we found the fox. We won!

What do you think the prize was? Well, next time I get to hide the fox. Ha ha.

Mensa Scholarship Winner

Our local scholarship winner of \$600 this year is ***Maya Ulin-Okeefe*** of Asheville.

Her essay:

My goal is to use my privilege to develop intersectionally-conscious support structures to provide women and LGBTQ populations with sexual and reproductive health and rights



(SRHR). I want to go back to school for two master's degrees: social work and public health with an emphasis on international development and global health because these degrees will provide me with the tools to expand my work in SRHR. With increased knowledge, I can better support equitable access to health and education for marginalized populations.

Growing up in a queer family in the South, I lived a dualistic reality throughout my childhood and did not come out myself as a lesbian until college. My mothers created a progressive loving home, however, at school I stepped into a conservative "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" culture. My friends knew I had two moms but clearly did not want me to talk about social issues. When I took an activist stance and spoke out against marriage discrimination my family faced at the ballot box, my friends in high school turned away from me. Since this first discouraging public stand for LGBTQI rights, my passion grew. I built supportive networks, gained more tools, and worked for social justice on three continents.

My work specifically with LGBTQI populations and marginalized women leads me to pursue these two master's degrees. Over the past four years listening to community stakeholders, I built need-based programs which generated questions for me as to how I could do this work better. These grounded experiences lit my passion and will enrich my graduate school experience.

My SRHR interests led me to spend almost a year in Rwanda where I worked with Friends Peace House (FPH), supporting and expanding women's rights and economic opportunities in their genocide prevention programs. Noticing a need for resources to support SRHR for girls in their programs, I developed a relationship with an organization that provided demonstration aids and a thousand condoms for the vocational training school's sex education class. After listening to my host sisters describe period poverty in the community, I conducted a sanitary pad usage and accessibility assessment to determine the need for free menstrual supplies at FPH's vocational training schools. Networking with other organizations, I then explored ways to incorporate reusable pad-making into FPH's sewing program and built a partnership to use discarded banana tree fibers for economical environmentally friendly pads. While in Rwanda, I also advocated with the NGO Amahoro Human Respect for health, safety, and employment opportunities for sex workers, street youth, HIV+ people, single mothers, and the LGBTQI+ population. This is one example where I experienced the strong communities that queer people, people of color, and women build through hardship.

Through my current position as Research Assistant with Greene Works, I support SRHR research and programming, focusing on child marriage, intersectionality, gender based violence, men's roles in gender equality, and COVID-19 effects on minorities internationally.

I would greatly appreciate the support from these scholarships to work toward masters' degrees in Public Health and Social Work. With these degrees, I will be equipped to create programs that focus on improving the health, quality of life, and access to resources for marginalized women and LGBTQ populations, similar to my work in Rwanda.

Submitted by *Wayne Stanko*, Scholarship Chair

Invasive Species -- Armadillo

by Josie

One day, while innocently driving in downtown Franklin, North Carolina, I spotted what looked like a dead armadillo in the middle of the road. I was so surprised that I turned around so I could take a closer look. It WAS an armadillo! I could hardly believe my eyes.

I mentioned having seen the armadillo while waiting in line at a shipping facility. The man I told it to was from Arizona. He told me that people in Arizona would put a dead armadillo on top of an ant hill so that all the guts get eaten and the stripped carcass can then be used to make an armadillo purse.

What? Huh? So I went to www.images.google.com and did a search for armadillo purses. For a good time, try it for yourself. :)

In addition to purses, I found armadillo costumes, rugs, coffee cups, badges, garden statues, a way to symbolically adopt an armadillo from the Sierra Club, stickers, candy, trinkets, buckles, crafts, cookie cutters, art, masks, Tacos de Armadillos, and then I found this:

What is the difference between an armadillo and a comma?

One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other's a pause at the end of a clause.

And then I found this article about an armadillo that was killed in a hit and run accident:

<https://q1077.com/true-story-local-armadillo-receives-memorial-and-obituary/>

Armadillos originated in Central and South America and have been working their way up and into the United States. They were first spotted in North Carolina in 2007. They are now in 46 counties in North Carolina, especially the southwestern part of the state.

The good news is that they eat fire ants.

Be careful about eating armadillo. Even though they are purported to be delicious—some call it “Possum on the Half Shell” —they can carry leprosy.

Further Reading:

<https://www.wunc.org/environment/2019-05-24/armadillos-in-your-backyard-nc-wildlife-officials-want-to-know>

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Armadillo>

UFOs?

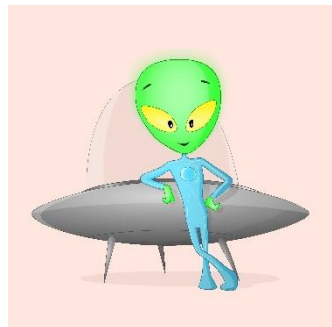
by Josie

When I was a child, I read a book by Admiral Richard E. Byrd called *The Hollow Earth*. It was a banned book, so I had to wait for almost half a year to have the opportunity to read it. (It is no longer banned.) According to Admiral Byrd, he found entrances into the inside of the earth at the poles, and he further claimed to have found an advanced civilization living inside the earth.

I have always wondered if some of the spaceships we see are actually from another group of people living inside of our earth. It always made sense to me that the inside of the earth could be hollow. If you take any liquid or molten material and spin it, it goes to the outside.

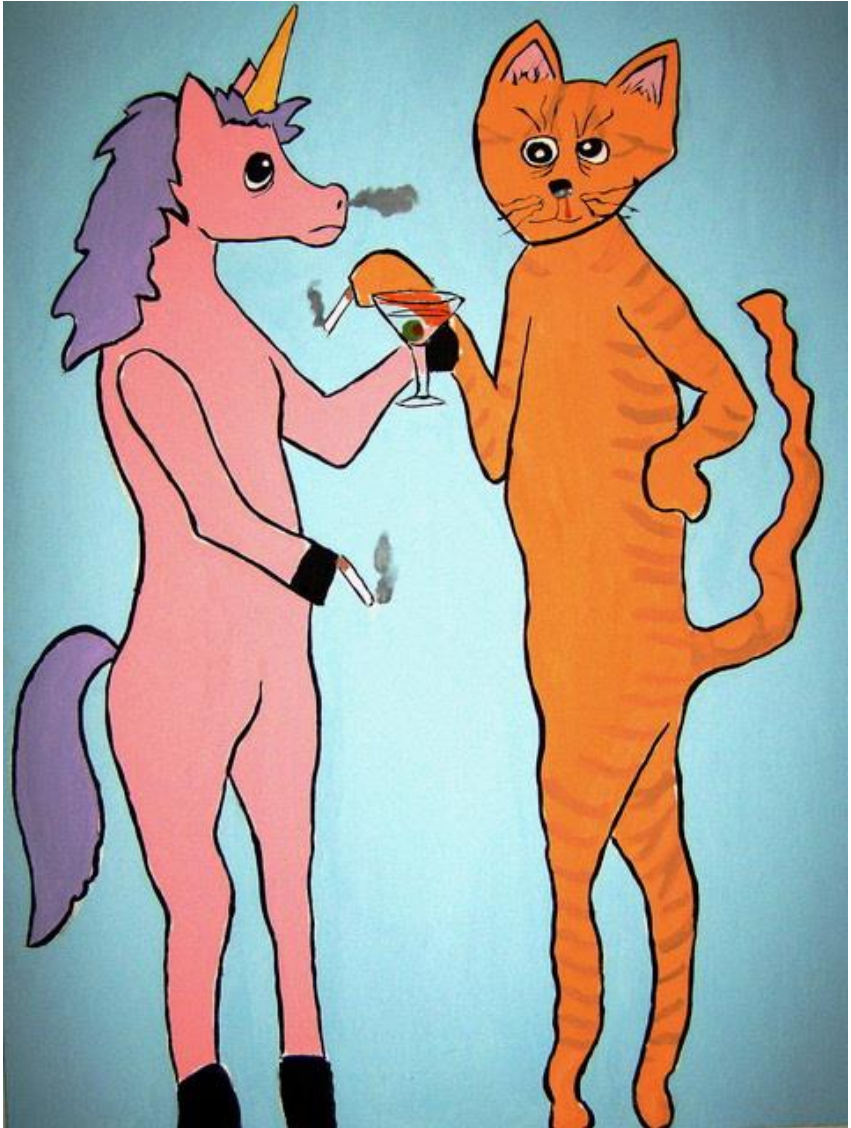
And then, if you think about it further, wouldn't anyone living inside the earth have very large eyes and pale skin? And wouldn't beings living beside us have a vested interest in what we are doing to our world? Wouldn't they want to shut down nuclear facilities?

What do you think?



Caption Contest

What's your best caption for this artwork? Send it to the Editor (SharronArmel@gmail.com). Entries will be posted next month!



Painted by ***Jenny Fairclough***, submitted by her mom, ***Pat Benard***.

Executive Committee Report

The ExComm members and advisors (*Sharron Armel, Johanna Dokter, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko*) met at Grace Lehto's home .

We made more detailed 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!

The picnic will be Thursday August 19 at the Carrier Park Shelter. FBM will provide catered individually-packaged meals; each member may bring one guest. Attendees will be asked to sign up in advance, and to choose from a variety of sandwich, salad, and vegetarian options. More information and invitations will be sent to members as the date approaches.

Submitted by
Grace Lehto
Deputy Local Secretary

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

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance at April 30, 2021		\$ 5,557.89
Receipts:		
None	\$ -	
Total Receipts		\$ -
Disbursements:		
None	\$ -	
Total Disbursements		\$ -
Closing Balance at April 30, 2021		\$ 5,557.89

Submitted by ***Wayne Stanko***, Treasurer

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