

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 27, No. 8, August 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.

***FBM Events Calendar
August 2021***

Monday, August 2 , 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting
at the Taproom at Sierra Nevada Brewing Company,
Reservations required by July 29; contact SharronArmel@gmail.com

Friday, August 6, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch
at Tupelo Honey South, 1829 Hendersonville Road in Asheville.
If you plan to attend, contact Fae Armstrong
one4fae2@yahoo.com or (828)575-0121

Thursday, August 19, 5:30pm: PICNIC!
at Carrier Park Pavilion (more info on the following pages)
Reservations & meal choices required by August 12; contact
SharronArmel@gmail.com or (828)280-6234



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/>

It's a PICNIC!!!

**Picnic/FBM Anniversary Celebration/Holiday Party
Thursday August 19, 2021**



After this long stretch of not gathering, we're going to catch up on some of what we missed -- Let's celebrate:

French Broad Mensa Anniversary

Summer Picnic

Holiday Party

Surviving the Pandemic

Trivia Contest

Thursday, August 19, 2021

5:30pm until dark (meals will be delivered at about 6pm.)

At the Carrier Park Picnic Shelter

220 Amboy Road, Asheville NC

Parking and restrooms available

Alcohol, smoking, guns and drugs prohibited

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Contact SharronArmel@gmail.com or 828-280-6234 by August 13.

What'll We Do for Fun?

Trivia Contest

A page of trivia questions will be distributed at the beginning of the picnic, and you can exercise your “little grey cells” while you eat. Your entries will be collected and tallied, and winners announced, after dinner.

Holiday Gift Exchange (optional)

If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift valued at about \$15. After dinner, gifts will be distributed in a weird and wonderful way (as only Grace Lehto can do), and you'll go home with a nice surprise.

Carrier Park

The park offers many activity areas: volleyball courts, a giant playground, a roller-hockey rink, a basketball court, a multi-use track, a lawn bowling court, a paved trail and a multi-use sports field for baseball and soccer. Our shelter rental is good for the whole day, so if you arrive early to play, feel free to use the shelter as well.

What's for Dinner?

Catered, individually-packaged meals will be provided.

Each member may bring one guest.

You and your guest may each choose one of the following meals in advance (or you may bring your own, of course):

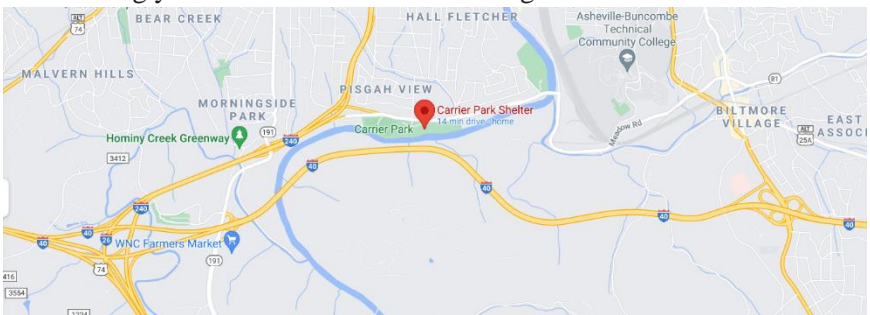
Mediterranean Veggie Sandwich with chips & cookie

Steak & arugula sandwich with chips & cookie

Turkey sandwich with chips & cookie

Cobb Salad with chicken, baguette & cookie

Please bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.



Regional Vice Chairman's Message



The AMC met July 10-11 at the new national office in Hurst, TX. We spent Friday in orientation sessions. Saturday we held our regular AMC meeting with the new Chair, Timmy King; new 2nd Vice Chair, Angie Christie; and new RVCs in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 7. One of our first orders of business was the appointment of Robin Crawford as Communication Officer; Kimberly Strickland as Membership Officer; Charlie Steinhice as Director of Science and Education; and the re-appointment

of Tabby Vos as Marketing Officer. We approved the annual audit of the 2020-2021 Consolidated Financial Statement. Tabby Vos and Lowell Aplebaum were appointed co-chairs for the 2023 Annual Gathering, and Action Committees were set up for 2021-2022.

Becky Folger, the Local Group Services Manager, gave each RVC a “Snapshot” of their Local Group activity for the past year. **Ten of our twenty Local Groups in Region 5 actually grew last year, in spite of all the COVID restrictions!** Special kudos go to **Mensa in Georgia, Middle Tennessee Mensa, Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa, and Mensa of Eastern North Carolina**, all of whom gained twenty members or more between June of 2020 and June of 2021! Three groups held a total of 15 test sessions during the past year. (After all, test sessions are very easy to social-distance – just put one candidate at each table, and wear masks.) Ten groups were able to continue monthly newsletters, and almost all continued quarterly newsletters.

All of this was extremely good news. I notice from your newsletters that most of you are scheduling in-person meetings again, and I can't wait to see you myself!

In addition to starting up my schedule of Local Group visitations again this quarter, I am eagerly planning to attend the World Gathering in Houston, TX August 24-29, 2021. Register at <https://ag.us.mensa.org/>

I'll also be in Duluth, GA (outside Atlanta) for Peachtreat 45. Register at <http://ga.us.mensa.org/generalinfo.html>

Finally, Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa will hold their annual RG November 12-14, 2021. Register at <https://cbrmensa.org/rg/>

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

Local Secretary's Message

French Broad Mensa is growing! By mid-July, we had 125 members. We welcome new, returning, and rejoining members:

Brandy Burchard of Asheville has rejoined;

Stephen Irish of Hendersonville has moved into our area.



Farewell and best wishes to ***Jeffrey Patterson***, who has moved to Michigan.

Happy August birthdays to

Susan Chitwood Barton

Anne Desotelle

Veronique Eichler

David Fincher

Warren Hargis

Rosalie Rogers

Joye Ruhe

Marie Thompson

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

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



Dear Gabbie,

Even though I haven't gotten my shots yet and don't plan to (I'm scared of the Gates Conspiracy to depopulate the Earth, not to mention putting computer chips and nano-robots into us all), I'm real thankful in all my prayers that we've beaten this satanic foreign disease. We (Americans, that is) shouldn't let anyone from anywhere else into our wonderful country. Don't you agree?

Convinced Q-person

Dear Q,

I was heartened to receive your thoughtful and insightful communique. It was helpful to my cynical self to know that there are still suicidal people like you out there determined to kill yourselves off by refusing to acknowledge the reality of a global (!) pandemic, no matter where it came from. It feels good to know that you dopes are going to murder yourselves using the self-immolating weapon of this ghastly disease.

No, I don't agree with your thoughtless nattering. Actually, a moderate depopulation of our besieged planet wouldn't hurt, except of course for the flood of tears by the bereaved. Go ahead and don't get vaccinated against the COVID. By the way, are you Native American? If not, where did your forbears hail from? Were

Gabbie goes on...

they the religiously fanatic Spaniards who destroyed the existing civilizations of Central and South America in their search for gold? Or were they the slave-traders of Europe with their vaunted superiority fantasies and dreams of wealth? Perhaps you're descended from the captured and enslaved millions brought to our shores to replace the murdered native populations and do the hard work? What I'm asking is what gives you the right to be so high and mighty when you're living on stolen land and dreaming the same old dreams of money, money, money, and to hell with everyone else?

The Pope made an interesting comment recently when he said that we (meaning humanity) might be able to change things for the better. But there's a problem with your fantasy, Pope Old Buddy... it's called Human Nature. We are the way we are because we're the way we are. It's in the DNA.

I'd suggest that you go take your shots like a good little human. Who knows? It might even keep you alive. Just think, you'd be able to propagate and make an even bigger mess of this beautiful little planet we used to have.

Gabbie

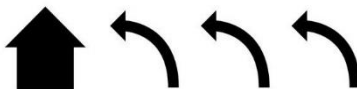


**I used to be addicted
to the hokey pokey,
but I have since turned myself around.**

Brain Teasers

(Answers are near the Treasurer's Report.)

1. Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, he met two masked men. Who were they?



1995



10 years old

1990



15 years old

2. In 1990, a person is 15 years old. In 1995, that same person is 10 years old. How can this be?

3. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?



4. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

— — — — —
A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

5. A man pushes his car to a hotel and tells the owner he's bankrupt. Why?



Ham Radio - ARRL Field Day 2021

by Bea Reddy



The most popular HAM radio event in the U.S. and Canada is called the ARRL Field Day.

This annual event simulates emergency situations to test the preparedness of the amateur radio community. Local groups of ham radio operators go out into a field and set up power, antennas, radios, and then they start broadcasting.

This was my first field day. It was a great learning experience.

Solar panels with inverters were set up to run the radios and analyzers.

Vertical antennae (resembled flag poles) were set up. In addition, a nimble young man climbed up into a tree and tied off a horizontal dipole antenna. It is amazing how many different configurations can be used to collect signals out of the air.

Wires were run from antennae to the radios, and then the broadcasting started.

It was GREAT fun!

One of the very experienced ham radio operators in our group was able to contact over 250 other ham radio stations in just a matter of hours. I was also able to broadcast, but only contacted a few people.

In addition to the experience, there was lots of delicious food.

I'm already looking forward to the next Field Day.

An Obituary



Isaac Louis Kullman

October 25, 1938 - July 12, 2021
Piedmont, South Carolina | Age 82
Mr. Kullman was a lifetime member of
Mensa, and a friend to members of the
future FBM in the Piedmont Area
Mensa days.

GO Board & Stones -- Free to a good home!

Can you think of anyone who might be interested in a Go board and stones?

One can either play Go (surround and capture stones) or Gomoku (five stones in a row).

While I was working in Taiwan, I played the game a lot.

Here is a Wikipedia explanation of Go.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Go_\(game\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Go_(game))

I'll give it away to the first Mensa member who asks.

Ron Jones
ronjonesnc@gmail.com



Dormio, Dormio, Wherefore Art Thou, Dormio?

by Lizzz Russell

You might already be familiar with lucid dreaming devices. They have been available for many years — the old “master your dreams, master your destiny” aphorism.

The MIT folks have been developing a sleep-tracking device that is paired with an app to help manipulate your dreams by inserting “topics.” This new Targeted Dream Incubation (TDI) sleep-tracking device is called **Dormio**.

In a perfect world, this device could help you be more creative or help you deal with stress.

In our actual world, it could be used to insert advertising into your dreams. Wouldn't life be better if you could dream of plunging to earth with a Coors beer in hand rather than just plunging? The possibilities are endless.

According to various sources, the average person is exposed to over 5,000 ads each and every day. Maybe they could up it to 10,000 by taking advantage of us during our down time.

Further Reading:

Dream-shaping tech from MIT channels suggestions into your dreams

<https://www.media.mit.edu/articles/dream-shaping-tech-from-mit-channels-suggestions-into-your-dreams/>

<https://www.livescience.com/dream-manipulation-machine.html>

Corporations Want to Put Advertisements In Your Dreams

<https://futurism.com/the-byte/corporations-advertisements-in-dreams>



BettyHass 2021



BettyHass 2021

Bugs Behaving Badly

by Josie



Have you ever run over a yellowjacket nest while mowing in your yard? If so, then you know that they can be quite aggressive if you disturb them — swarming and stinging. If you are very allergic, you need prompt medical attention to make sure you don't die.

The most common species in North Carolina is the eastern yellowjacket. It is about the size of a honeybee, but thinner and not as hairy as a honeybee.

Every year, as much as 40% of the eastern yellowjackets are parasitized by the southern yellowjacket.

Aside from bothering humans, yellowjackets are beneficial. They attack and kill many types of insects that can harm your garden.

Most of the yellowjackets in North Carolina make nests and live underground. They are often found in the middle of a landscape. Their nests look like a hole with what looks like egg carton material around the hole.

They LOVE sugar — berries, fruit juice, nectar, soft drinks — but they will also settle for a bite of your sandwich or some deviled eggs. If you don't want yellowjackets, don't leave ripe fruit hanging around your yard!

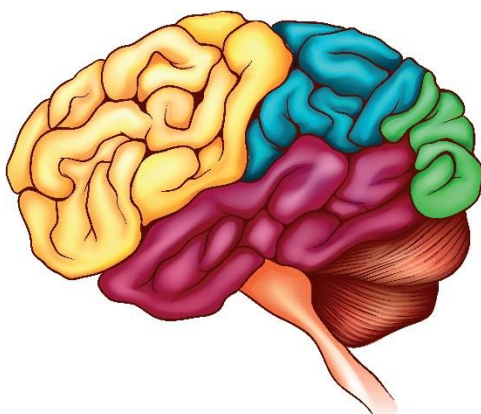
You can trap yellowjackets by hanging a fresh piece of meat or fish over a pan of soapy water. This works because they eat until they are so full that they fall down. (They do not like rotting meat.)

Logic Puzzle: The Herbalists

Five herbalists (Antonius, Domingo, Flavian, Horatio, and Lucius) collected different amounts, from least to most, (a bit, some, standard, a lot, and a pile) of five herbs (mandrake root, cinquefoil, rosemary, juniper berries, and mistletoe) during various phases of the moon (new, first quarter, half, third quarter, and waning crescent).

Can you figure out who collected mistletoe, when, and how much?
(Solution is near the Executive Committee Report.)

1. Mandrake Root was collected in a standard amount of time in the third quarter of the moon.
2. Rosemary was collected on a new moon in the maximum possible amount, but not by Domingo (who didn't collect cinquefoil, either).
3. Antonius and Horatio were working on either a half moon or the third quarter.
4. The juniper berries were collected on the moon's first quarter.
5. No one was collecting mistletoe on the two last phases of the moon.
6. Horatio harvested the smallest possible amount of herbs on a half moon.
7. Three herbalists – the one who collected only some herbs, another who collected mandrake root, and Flavian – were working on first and third quarters of the moon, and also on the waning crescent.



		Herbs					Amounts					Moon Phase				
		mandrake root	cinquefoil	rosemary	juniper berries	mistletoe	a bit	some	standard	a lot	a pile	New	1st quarter	Half	3rd quarter	Waning crescent
Herbalists	Antonius															
	Domingo															
	Flavian															
	Horatio															
	Lucius															
Moon Phases	New															
	1st quarter															
	Half															
	3rd quarter															
	Waning crescent															
Amounts	a bit															
	some															
	standard															
	a lot															
	a pile															



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Executive Committee Report

ExComm members and advisors (*Sharron Armel, Johanna Dokter, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko*) met on July 5 at Grace Lehto’s home.

Plans were finalized for the August 19 picnic. Johanna Dokter is poised to mail out invitations, including a small flyer with details about reservations, meal options, and information on the site (Carrier Park Shelter).

Submitted by
Grace Lehto
 Deputy Local Secretary

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

Logic Puzzle: Horatio collected a bit of mistletoe during the half-moon.

Treasurer’s Report

Opening Balance at May 31, 2021		\$ 5,557.89
Receipts:		
April subsidy from Am. Mensa	\$ 102.00	
May subsidy from Am. Mensa	\$ 103.85	
Total Receipts		\$ 205.85
Disbursements:		
Carrier Park Shelter Rental	\$ 150.00	
Mailing labels	\$ 21.38	
Total Disbursements	\$ -	\$ 171.38
Closing Balance at June 30, 2021		\$ 5,592.36

Submitted by *Wayne Stanko*, Treasurer

Brain Teasers: 1. The umpire and the catcher; 2. The person was born in 2005 BC; 3. An hourglass has thousands of grains of sand; 4. Short; 5. He was playing *Monopoly*.

French Broad Mensa Contacts

National Office...817-607-0090...AmericanMensa@mensa.org

Region 5 Vice-Chairman

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

French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:

Executive Committee

Local Secretary

Sharron Armel 828-280-6234 sharronarmel@gmail.com

Deputy Local Secretary

Grace Lehto gracelehto@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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Member-at-Large

Johanna Dokter johannadillo@gmail.com

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