

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 27, No. 10, October 2021

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



YOUR French Broad Mensa wins again!

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On the cover:

American Mensa Jewel Awards

The Jewel Awards recognize participation in Mensa activities and accomplishments, including Mind Games®, CultureQuest®, Mensa Testing Day, and Leadership Development Workshops. Achievement levels are, from highest to lowest: the Ruby, the Sapphire, and the Emerald.

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
October 2021

Friday, October 1, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at Baabals Ice Cream Shoppe and Family Grille, at
118 St John Road, Fletcher (near Hendersonville Road).

We hope to dine outside on the porch.

If you plan to attend, contact Fae Armstrong

one4fae2@yahoo.com or (828)575-0121

Monday, October 4, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

at The Madness Asheville—Sushi, Burgers & Bar

275 Smokey Park Highway #251 in Asheville

<https://www.themadnessavl.com/>

Reservations required by Oct. 2; contact SharronArmel@gmail.com

Thursday, October 28, 6:00pm: Thu.D!

at Pack's Tavern, 20 South Spruce St. in Asheville

<https://packstavern.com/>

Reservations required by October 26; contact Will McGuffin at

wmcguffin@gmail.com or 828-274-5050



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.

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

**Until further notice, in-person events are
open to fully-vaccinated members only.**

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

Regional Vice Chairman's Message



Awards and Certificates and Kudos

Wow! The local groups in the Southeast Region have done us proud! **South Mississippi Mensa won the Prolific Owl Award**, for the highest percentage of year-over-year growth in the nation! And I also have to throw accolades to **South Coast Mensa (Alabama) for winning the Diamond Jewel Award** again this year. Two years in a row!! Those folks are really doing something right!!

Actually, we earned 12 Jewel Awards during the 2020-2021 pandemic year:

Class I (1100 + members) – **Mensa in Georgia** won a Sapphire award

Class II (400 to 1099 members) **Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa** won a Ruby Award

Class III (200 to 399 members) **Piedmont Area Mensa** won a Sapphire Award

Class IV (125 to 199 members) **French Broad Mensa** and **North Alabama Mensa** both won a Ruby Award.

Smoky Mountain Mensa won a Sapphire

Central Alabama Mensa, Central South Carolina Mensa, and Triad Mensa all won Emerald

Class V (fewer than 125 members) **SOUTH COAST MENSA WON DIAMOND—2nd year in a row!!**

Chattanooga Mensa and **South Mississippi Mensa** both won Emerald Jewels.

Wait! I'm not finished!! Several individuals from the Southeast Region won individual awards! **Charlie Steinhice of Chattanooga Mensa** got an American Mensa Distinguished Service Award. National Certificates of Appreciation went to **Tim Vogt of Mensa in Georgia** and to **Nancy Campbell** (that's me!) of **Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa**.

Anyway, I'm so proud of you all that I could burst!

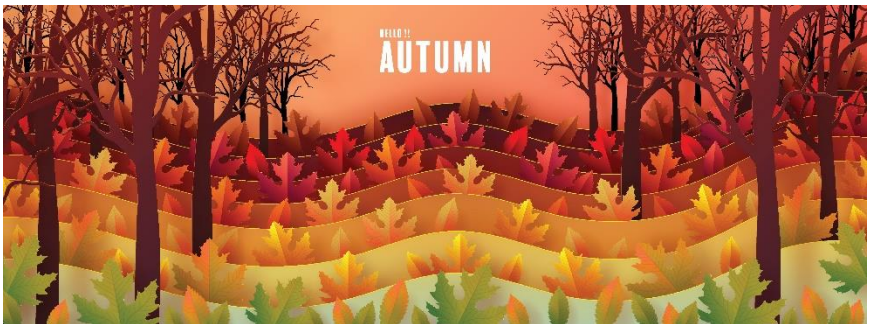
So what is almost as much fun as receiving national awards? Going to a Regional Gathering!

There are two Regional Gatherings coming up in Region 5:

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

Piedmont Area Mensa will hold their fabulous Regional Gathering, "It's an ARRRRRG!!" from March 25-27, 2022 in Greenville, SC at the Drury Inn and Suites. More about that next month.

Nancy Campbell, RVC5



Local Secretary's Message



French Broad Mensa finally made our picnic, holiday party, and anniversary celebration happen! After two reschedules (thank you, Hurricane Ida), about 20 members gathered at the Carrier Park Shelter in September to enjoy beautiful weather, good company, food, and games. Did I mention **good company**? Michael Havelin caught some memorable moments on camera (see centerfold)

We had the pleasure of meeting new member **Dan Fisher**—perhaps American Mensa's newest member, as he attended a French Broad Mensa event only a day or two after joining Mensa!

We bid farewell to **Harold Runnels** of Simpsonville, SC, who has moved out of our group.

Happy October birthdays to

Brett Culhane

Carroll Burnette

Philip Griswold

Laurence Johnson

Brandy Burchard

Paul Wright

Craig Russell

Christina Velderman

Michael Korstange

Have we missed celebrating your birthday? Happy Day, anyway. To be included in future lists, please check your profile at the American Mensa website, and make sure you've given permission for your birthdate to be published. Same advice goes for your phone number and email address, if you're willing to share them with fellow members.

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,

Here's an eye-opener for y'all. It caught me by surprise. Let's see how you do.

I heard a rumor that there was a party. I wasn't invited. What's with that, yo? And after all I've done for y'all over the years, all the free advice I've given so vociferously (and it's been great advice, too, I might add), all the dumb questions I've had to answer trying to save you from yourselves, all the minutes and hours brutally cut from my life in the service of the Mensoid community. You know what I'm talking about.

*And what thanks do I get? I didn't even get an email invitation to French Broad Mensa's 25th Anniversary Commemoration, a celebratory event replete with ice, free water, and Panera Bread sandwiches, not to mention the lovely cake loaded with sugar, sugar, and more sugar (so our extra-large brains could race along at top speed inside our pointy little heads – check out the photo spread in this issue of *BROADCAST*). You ain't stupid, right? You even got papers to prove it (Creeping Alzheimer's not withstanding.) You know what I'm talking (read: writing) about.*

Gabbie goes on...

I feel so incredibly slighted after all the hard hours I've put in for you guys (and gals – that's an all-inclusive term these days, y'know). I've even considered quitting from my exalted position with the firm. (Speaking of which, in a recent column I mentioned jumping off a bridge because of all humanity's stupidity that surrounds me. One of my faithful readers contacted the editor and asked if I was a serious suicide candidate. Come on, now! Life is too entertaining for that. I want to see what happens next. Don't you?)

Naw, I have no plans to off myself. I'm gonna stick around and make life miserable for all you folks who forgot (you did forget, didn't you?) to send me an invitation. Maybe I'll get an invitation next time 25 years cycles around. You think so?

Your disillusioned, despondent, and vengeful commentator,

Gabbie



Ham Radio: HTs (Handheld Transceivers)

by Bea Reddy

Most HAM radio operators have at least one handheld walkie talkie style of radio. They are called **HTs** or **Handheld Transceivers** (transceiver = *transmitter* + *receiver*).

Licensed HAM users can dial in any authorized frequency desired.

It might not look like much, but my HT has the following features (they vary):

- Two-Channel Color Display
- Bluetooth, including a Push To Talk (PTT) Button
- Built-in GPS
- Automatic or Manual Roaming
- Analog or Digital Transmission
- Store up to 4,000 Channels, 10,000 Talk Groups, 200,000 Digital Contacts
- Programmable Power Levels
- DMR (Digital Mobile Radio, including Time Division Multiplexing)
- Can be programmed from a computer



And MORE!!!!

An HT is really all you need when getting started in HAM radio. Prices range from around \$25 to over \$1000. If you do a search on a shopping site for **HANDHELD HAM RADIOS**, you can see for yourself.

By themselves, they have a range of between 4 and 6 miles on flat ground (less in the mountains or if there are obstructions), but when you connect to a repeater, you can reach greater distances. Repeaters can extend your range from less than 50 miles to hundreds of miles, depending on terrain.

Picnic-Holiday-Anniversary Celebration

Once upon a time, many years ago, a Mensa member appeared in Asheville. That was Wayne Stanko, who with dedication and energy traveled to Greenville SC for Mensa meetings. After a few years he was joined by Will McGuffin, then several more members, and the traveling band continued their jaunts.



And then...25 years ago... French Broad Mensa was formed as a separate group. This year we remember that event (well some do) and celebrate all that the group has brought to Western North Carolina.

Wayne was instrumental in creating French Broad Mensa, and continues to be at the heart of the organization. He's everybody's favorite member when he's writing reimbursement checks!

After dinner, we sang a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to Us" before LocSec Sharron Armel (properly masked and gloved) cut the cake.





The two Jans (*Jan Dokter*, left, and *Jan Stanko*, right) try to come up with answers to the challenging Trivia Quiz presented by *Johanna Dokter*.



And then *Johanna Dokter* and *RVC5 Nancy Campbell* tallied up the results. (Ladies, we heard you giggling at some of our ridiculous guesses!) Johanna announced the winners and distributed prizes.



All photos on pages 10 and 11 were taken by Michael Havelin.

Name that Movie!

Did you happen to watch some old movies on TV in recent months, while minimizing public contact? Maybe you heard some of these oft-repeated lines. You've probably quoted a few of them over the years!

1. "Sometimes the magic works; sometimes it doesn't."
2. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."
3. "I'll have what she's having." Bonus question: What was special about the actress who spoke that line?
4. "I do not think that word means what you think it means."
5. "You're gonna need a bigger boat."
6. "I'm having an old friend for dinner."
7. "I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse."
8. "I love the smell of napalm in the morning."
9. "Do or do not, there is no 'try'."
10. "Here's lookin' at you, kid."
11. "You can't handle the truth!"
12. "I see dead people."
13. "There's no place like home."
14. "I don't like his feet!"
15. "Not all those who wander are lost."

(1) *Little Big Man*, Chief Old Lodge Skins; (2) *Gone with the Wind*, Rhett Butler; (3) *When Harry Met Sally*, Female Customer, Bonus; Rob Reiner's mom; (4) *The Princess Bride*, Inigo Montoya; (5) *Jaws*, Martin Brody; (6) *Silence of the Lambs*, Hannibal Lecter; (7) *The Godfather*, Don Vito Corleone; (8) *Apocalypse Now*, Bill Kilgore; (9) *The Empire Strikes Back*, Yoda; (10) *Casablanca*, Rick Blaine; (11) *A Few Good Men*, Daniel Kaffee; (12) *The Sixth Sense*, Cole Sear; (13) *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy; (14) E.T., Gertie; (15) The Fellowship of the Ring, Gandalf

Methods of Digital Deception: DDoS

by Lizz Russell

Have you even been going from one website to another, and one of the websites is VERY SLOW or maybe does not even come up at all?

It could be because the website is experiencing a DDoS (**D**istributed **D**enial of **S**ervice) attack.

Essentially a DDoS attack floods the targeted website or system with so much traffic that it can barely move. It is like traffic in Atlanta during rush hour. In severe cases, it can even make the target become unavailable.

There are various methods that such an attack can be launched. One of them is by sending a command to a group of computers that are being secretly controlled by someone else (called a botnet).

Many people who are not concerned or are lax about their computer's security (the old "I have nothing to hide" mentality) end up having their computer being used in a botnet.

One of the things that has dramatically increased the ability to launch attacks is the Internet of Things (IoT). The IoT includes surveillance cameras, smart TVs, smart anything's, and a myriad of other devices. An incredible amount IoT devices are easily made part of a botnet.

It is so bad that an attack that occurred around the end of August-beginning of September was making 21.8 million requests per second. Can you imagine?

Meris Botnet Hit Russia's Yandex With Massive 22 Million RPS DDoS Attack

<https://thehackernews.com/2021/09/meris-botnet-hit-russias-yandex-with.html>

Nobody is exempt from DDoS attacks. Banks, schools, governments, service providers, businesses and even individuals have been targeted.

In a society that is increasingly dependent on internet services, this type of attack can wreak havoc when deadlines are involved.

The Shoebill (Balaeniceps rex)

by Josie

The first time I saw a shoebill, I thought it was a dinosaur!



A Young Shoebill

Photo is courtesy of <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Quartl>

Shoebills are often called storks, but that is a misnomer. They are in fact related to pelicans.

They live in swamps in tropical east Africa.

They can reach 5 feet in height, their wing span could be as much as 8' 6", and they can fly.

Adults weigh in at around 12 pounds.

Shoebills like people, but you must greet them first. This is done by shaking your head and bowing. They will shake their head and bow in return. If you don't do this, they will avoid you. They also make a rapid clacking sound with their bills as a form of communication.

They eat fish and small reptiles.

They are very smart and curious birds.

See an adorable shoebill in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHuyk8sdhUw>



Shark Bites

by Sharron Armel

From the August 2021 issue of *Piece 'n' Press*, the newsletter of American Mensa's IQSIG (Intelligent Quilters' Special Interest Group):

This quilt is the result of a challenge among friends. I was given a piece of Kona's 2021 Color of the Year, Horizon Blue, and told "See what you can do with this!" I asked some quilter friends to suggest names, and now it's called "Shark Bites."



"Shark Bites" made by Sharron Armel, 2021

SIGs (Special Interest Groups)

Have you checked out the Special Interest Groups sponsored by American Mensa?

<https://www.us.mensa.org/connect/sigs/sig-listing/>

If you don't find one you like, how about starting your own?

Smart Alec

with
Sirius & Zany



BettyHass 2021



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Executive Committee Report

ExComm members and advisors (*Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko*) met on September 6 at the home of Grace Lehto in Asheville.

The group followed up on the twice-rescheduled picnic plans, and made sure all the checklist items were checked.

In addition, we talked about locations for upcoming events, considering outdoor vs. indoor venues. We will plan to continue operating as usual, but will be alert to county, state, and national guidelines regarding virus risk.

Submitted by *Grace Lehto*, Deputy Local Secretary

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

Treasurer's Report

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|--------|-------------|
| Closing Balance at July 31, 2021 | | | \$ 5,697.76 |
| Receipts: | | | |
| July subsidy from Am. Mensa | \$ | 108.10 | |
| Total Receipts | | | \$ 108.10 |
| Disbursements: | | | |
| None | \$ | - | |
| Total Disbursements | \$ | - | \$ - |
| Closing Balance at August 31, 2021 | | | \$ 5,805.86 |

Submitted by *Wayne Stanko*, Treasurer

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 (January 2021- December 2022)

Local Secretary

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

Deputy Local Secretary

Grace Lehto gracelehto@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Wayne Stanko 828-253-8781 wstanko@charter.net

Member-at-Large

Johanna Dokter johannadillo@gmail.com

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Carmen Jessup ciej@aol.com

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Ombudsman

Will McGuffin 828-274-5050 wmcguffin@gmail.com

S.I.G.H.T.

Lizz Russell lizz@dnet.net

Membership Coordinator Position Open

Advisors

Michael Havelin havelin@yahoo.com

Will McGuffin 828-274-5050 wmcguffin@gmail.com



BROADCAST

Periodical Postage
PAID
Asheville, NC 28810

BROADCAST (USPS 0013-506) is published monthly for \$8 per Year by French Broad Mensa.

Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC 28810. BROADCAST is The official newsletter of French Broad Mensa Group 287 in Region 5 of American Mensa.

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
AMERICAN MENSA
1229 CORPORATE DRIVE WEST
ARLINGTON, TX 76006-6103

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