

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 27, No. 11, November 2021

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

NOV



our Mensans to memorialize the history c  
benefit of humanity. Please call verify

*Remember, remember,  
the 5th of November...*



Happy Veterans Day  
Honoring all who served

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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  
November 2021**

**Monday, November 1, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting**  
at The Village Porch, 51 North Merrimon, Suite 113 in Reynolds Village  
<https://www.thevillageporch.com/>  
RSVP by Oct. 29 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

**Friday November 5, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch**  
at TGIFriday's, 115 Hendersonville Rd. in Asheville  
If you plan to attend, contact Fae Armstrong  
one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

**Saturday, November 13, 1:00pm: Urban Orchard Cider Co.**  
at 210 Haywood Rd. in West Asheville  
<https://www.urbanorchardcider.com/>  
Family-owned tasting room featuring house-made & guest ciders, local  
beers & snacks. Patio seating available. Nearby parking in lot and on street.  
RSVP by Nov. 12 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

**Thursday, November 18, 6:00pm: Thu.D!**  
at The Iconic Kitchen, 63 Southside Ave. in Asheville  
<https://iconickitchenanddrinks.com/>  
RSVP by Nov. 16 to SharronArmel@gmail.com



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 & guests only.**

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

## ***Regional Vice Chairman's Message***



<Yawn> Ho, hum, it's been a slow month for Mensa. No AGs, not even an RG in October. Makes me wish I had registered for Hallowe'eM, Chicago's annual RG which attracts about 500 people. However, November promises to be a banner month for Region 5. The AMC (Mensa's national Board of Directors) plans to hold their fourth quarter meeting in Charlotte, NC during the Sweet Carolinah RG planned for November 12-14, 2021. They will be pondering at least two major decisions as well as several minor ones.

Let me talk about the Sweet Carolinah RG first. Ruth Green-Waite is the LocSec in Charlotte, and she has done a bang-up job of chairing the 2021 RG, after exciting reviews of the 2019 RG there. (The 2020 RG was cancelled due to COVID.) First of all, Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa has one of the best Kids' Tracks in the nation. If you have kids, you simply must enroll them! Our Mensa Gifted Youth need socialization much more than factoids. They'll really get it here, and the price is right (only \$30 for the first child, discounts after that.) They'll start with Charlotte Wildlife first thing in the morning, then a service project, then Lunch, which is included in the registration. The afternoon brings an Escape Room right there at the hotel; then an art project, painting a seascape, with an experienced artist; then Cloggers and a Bluegrass Band. Dinner follows, then there is the Wicked World Map jigsaw puzzle in the evening. Enroll your kids and grandkids now!

There is a great lineup of speakers for the adults in attendance, too, Friday evening and all day Saturday. Finally, Ruth has planned several LDW presentations for Sunday morning. They include "Dealing with Problem Members" and "Helping your Local Group Succeed." Don't

forget, your local group gets points for every member attending an LDW presentation.

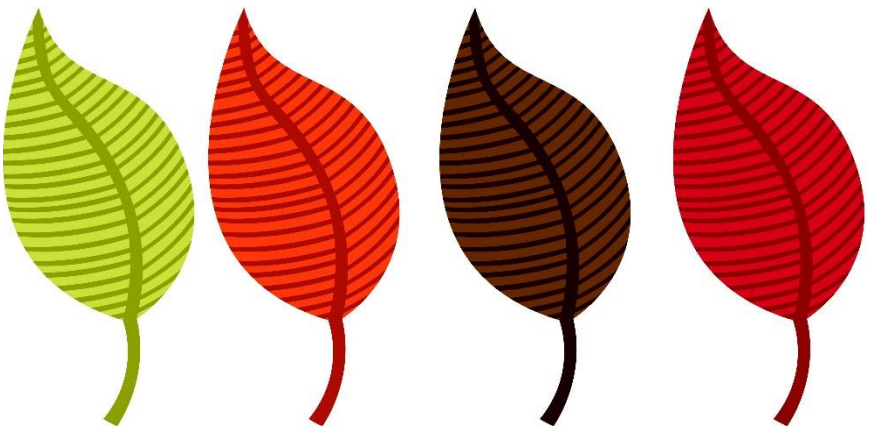
Since the AMC will already be in attendance, you will get to meet the national Board of Directors right here in the Southeast Region. You'll be able to speak at the members' microphone portion of the AMC meeting and ask questions of the AMC members during mealtimes, etc.

To read more about Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa upcoming RG, November 12-14, 2021, go to <https://cbrmensa.org/rg/>

Looking ahead, 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.

*Nancy Campbell, RVC5*

**Editor's Note:** I've asked Nancy for information and perspective on the recent Yellow Postcard Mailing, and hope to include more on this topic in the next BROADCAST issue.



## **Local Secretary's Message**



The picnic's behind us, and it's time for some new adventures. On November 13 you'll find some of your thirsty colleagues at The Urban Cider Company in West Asheville. We'll gather in the afternoon to look around, sample drinks & snacks, and converse.

Can you think of another adventure we might enjoy? What kind of outing would make you say "Oh yeah, I really want to do that!"? Please send your suggestions.

Welcome to members recently joining our group:

***Frances Caldwell-Krause***      ***Phyllis Franklin***  
***Laura Shields***

Happy Trails to members who have moved out of our area:

***Bradley Taylor***      ***Frederick Tucker***

Happy November birthdays to:

***Larry Anmuth***      ***Carlos Holsenback***  
***J Robert Bost***      ***Earl Hunt***  
***Lyn Donley***

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

***Jack Bahm***      ***Steven Lerner***  
***Jacey Begnaud***      ***Franklin McGowan***  
***Brett Culhane***      ***Wendy Reid***  
***Martin Davis***      ***Elizabeth Russell***  
***John Fishwick***      ***Michael Shelley***  
***Phyllis Franklin***      ***Lan Sluder***  
***Phillip Griswold***      ***Reuben Williams***  
***Pamela Harders***      ***Aixa Wilson***  
***Michael Havelin***      ***Paul Wright***  
***Laurence Johnson***

If your name is missing from any of the applicable “celebration” lists, please check your profile at [AmericanMensa.org](http://AmericanMensa.org), to make sure you’re allowing display of your birthday, etc.

**Sharron Armel**, Local Secretary

[SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

### ***Ham Radio: AUXCOMM***

*by Bea Reddy*

Licensed HAM radio operators can opt for voluntary training for AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communication) certification which allows them to help provide communications support for emergencies, disasters, and some organized events.

In North Carolina, this training includes Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses, North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) courses (including a 3-day school), classes on how to use certain HAM radio programs such as Winlink, on-site training, and participation in exercises.

There is much to learn when working with a variety of agencies during a situation, and each one is different. It is quite interesting, and I don't know about you, but I'd like to know what's going during a disaster or emergency and to be able to provide support.

Further information:

#### **ARES® and AUXCOMM IN NORTH CAROLINA**

<https://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

## **Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie**

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



*Dear General Membership,*

*Okay, y'all have beaten my meager defenses down. I give up, abdicate, withdraw from battle. That's right. I'm going to quit fighting to enlighten you proles (however intelligent you might have been in your youth) and adopt a totally new take on life. Yes, I'm going to have a positive attitude from now on. You betcha.*

*"Ha!" you scoff. No way can old Gabbie do it. It's an absolute impossibility, a violation of the basic laws of physics, psychics, and the universe in general. And in addition, Gabbie won't have anything more to say, nothing to enlighten y'all with, no clever witticisms on humanity and its frailties, no more high-minded thinking, no more simple solutions to the vexing questions of philosophy, politics, science (not really), the grinding COVID pandemic, and simply how to live with one another. You're all going to have to figure it all out for yourselves... individually.*

*Good luck. But I think you're doomed. As a friend of mine is fond of saying: "Nice planet you had here." I hope y'all read enough science fiction growing up. If you did, you'll be able to see the Big Picture, see the world-wide disaster you've created with your indiscriminate procreation, your Earth-eating machines, your cutting down the forests and poisoning the oceans. By the way,*



Gabbie goes on...

*the oceans are pretty damn big in case you hadn't noticed. It's taken lots of destructive action to poison them, but you did it. Hoorah for you! Mankind (and of course womankind—we couldn't have done it without you) is a curse on this benighted ball of rock, this insignificant dust mote floating in The Great Nothing of Space. (We don't call it "Space" for nothing.)*

*So how am I doing with my new attitude? Write to me in care of your respected and erudite editor with your comments, complaints and vituperations. I'll respond appropriately or as required by the query. Look, Ma! No hands!*

*Your reconstituted, reconstructed and recondite obliviator,  
Gabbie*



Dear

American Mensa  
requesting

We've  
confirm

Up-to-d  
and proud

One of our fellow members has changed his address on the American Mensa database to:

**123 Stop Reselling My Data, Mensa  
Seriously, MP 12344**

compre  
import

currently listed in  
data and fill in any info

member information is essential to foster  
history of American Mensa, Ltd.

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*Wayne Stanke*  
 Date 9/23/2021

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

**You may now  
 return your head  
 to the upright position.**

## ***Arthropods Behaving Badly—Scorpions in the Woodpile***

*by Josie*



You might want to wear a pair of gloves the next time you go outside to get wood, work in your garden, or clean up piles of debris. A Southern Devil Scorpion might be hiding in damp areas such as under logs, stones, foundations, and wood piles.

Fortunately, they are solitary creatures and prefer to live outdoors. They sometimes also wander indoors and will usually hang out in a moist corner of your home in hopes of a meal. There are even reports of scorpions biting people in bed.

They are not very big—around an inch in length. Their sting is painful, but not lethal. If you are allergic to arthropod venom, you should seek medical attention. The bite site will be red and sore and can last for days.

If you ever see a scorpion in your home, don't walk around barefoot, especially at night.

These creatures eat things like millipedes, insects, spiders, and tiny reptiles. Hopefully they might eat stink bugs, too.

Scorpions grab each other's claws and dance while mating. One female can give birth to up to 80 offspring, one at a time. They hang onto their mother's back for around four weeks.

But wait, there's more . . . At least two additional species of scorpions have been accidentally introduced in western North Carolina, and time will tell if they are here to stay. The first is the Striped Bark Scorpion and the other is the Hentz Striped Scorpion.

And finally, a scorpion joke . . . .

What happens when a soldier finds a scorpion in his tent?

In the Marines, he kills it

In the Army, he calls his CO to report it

In the Air Force, he calls the front desk and asks why there is a tent in his room.

Further reading:

## **Scorpions in North Carolina**

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/scorpions-in-north-carolina>

## **Southern Devil Scorpion** (*Vaejovis carolinianus*)

<https://www.insectidentification.org/insect-description.php?identification=Southern-Devil-Scorpion>

## ***MERF Scholarships***

*by Wayne Stanko*

French Broad Mensa is again participating in the Mensa Education and Research Foundation scholarship program. Anyone enrolling in an accredited educational institution in the Fall of 2022 may apply for a scholarship. The application is based on a 550 word essay describing the applicant's educational and career goals and how they plan to achieve these goals.

There will be at least one local \$600 award. There could be multiple awards and larger amounts if an essay is forwarded for regional consideration.

One does not need to be a Mensa member to apply. There is a separate program for Mensa members. Information on both programs can be found at [www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships).

The deadline for applying is January 15, 2022.

For more information, contact Wayne Stanko at [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net).

## ***Method of Digital Deception: Billions and Billions of Usernames and Passwords for Sale on Dark Web***

*by Lizz Russell*

In the past few years, many billions of usernames and passwords and even some account numbers and personal information such as social security numbers have been offered for sale on the dark web. (Note: the dark web is an invisible part of the internet that requires special programs for access.) Sometimes this information is just outright leaked (called doxing).

Here are a few examples:

Billions of Passwords Offered for \$2 in Cyber-Underground

<https://threatpost.com/billions-passwords-cyber-underground/163738/>

RockYou2021: largest password compilation of all time leaked online with 8.4 billion entries

<https://cybernews.com/security/rockyou2021-alltime-largest-password-compilation-leaked/>

How can that be? How are the crooks getting all your passwords and account information?



One of the ways is by using robot web crawlers. These are programs that try breaking into each machine connected to the internet, including yours. If they get in, they look for passwords stored in web browsers. Web browsers are the programs you use to access the internet, including Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and others.

All of these browsers conveniently store your usernames and passwords for websites you log into so that you don't have to type the credentials each time.

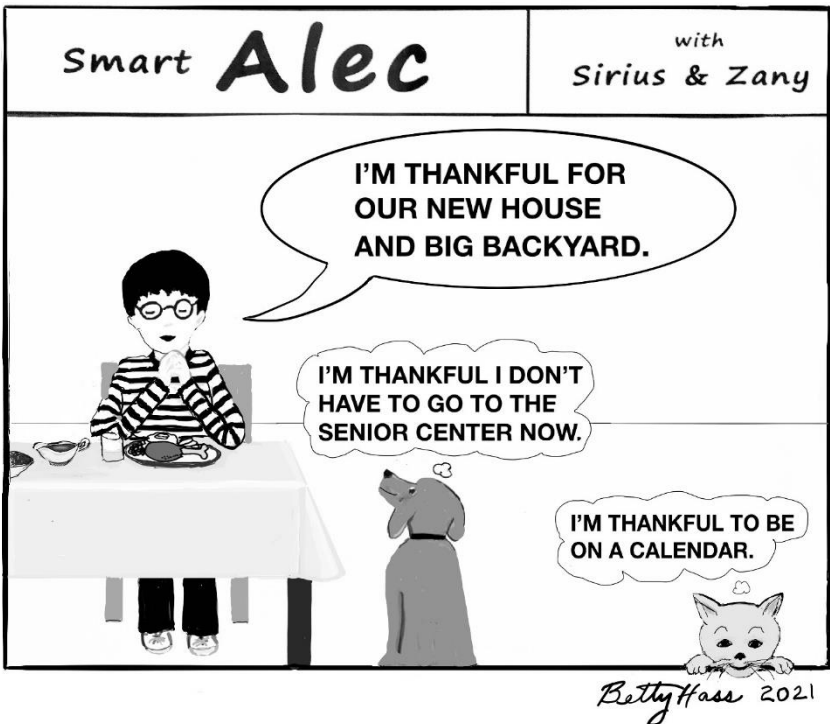
To look at your stored usernames and passwords in your browser(s), do a search for

view saved passwords on mybrowser

e.g., view saved passwords on safari

Many sources recommend using a password manager. I do not. Password managers can be hacked and quantum computing is here and will be mainstream soon. Quantum computing will make it rather easy to hack current encryption methods.

I recommend either getting a tabbed alphabetical book or an index card file and writing down your usernames and passwords with a pencil.



**buIC kooB**  
by *Sharron Armel*

A backward book club? Whazzat?

Most book clubs choose a book, then members read and discuss it. What if we did it the other way around – instead of the people choosing the book, the book chooses the people? No one is assigned any homework, you don't have to read books you don't want to read, and you can chime in on any books you wish..

I'm not quite sure how this “backward” book club might work. To start with, if you're interested, send me a title and author, and a brief description. I'll include it in future BROADCAST issues. If you see a book listed there that you've read and would like to discuss, let me know, and when others express interest, we'll schedule a Zoom meeting.

So to start: Would you like to talk over what you experienced during and after reading

*Caste: the Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson?

The author has received a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism, and both *Caste* and her first book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, have hit the top of most major lists. It's a timely and thought-provoking non-fiction book.





## ***Executive Committee Report***

ExComm members and advisors (*Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko*) met on October 4 at The Madness (Asheville Sushi, Burgers, & Bar).

We decided to continue in-person indoor events, subject to changing community health conditions. Further, we require that all event attendees be fully vaccinated. Masks will be required at some venues.

We'd like to invite a speaker to one of our meetings, but finding a restaurant that has a private room has been difficult. We considered having a presenter at a different kind of venue, such as a public library; we don't know how the lack of a meal will affect attendance.

A number of community events that we might join in were listed. Sharron will research them and report back to the group next month.

Wayne reported that he had sent MERF Scholarship application information to more than 40 regional schools and other public sources. Grace will forward the information to the local NAACP chapter.

Will asked that we start considering a slate of officers to be put before the membership in late 2022; their term will be January 2023-December 2024. We will invite potential members, as we identify them, to ExComm meetings, to let them know what we do, and get acquainted.

Submitted by *Grace Lehto*, Deputy Local Secretary

You may suggest topics for future agendas by emailing [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com).

## **Treasurer's Report**

Closing Balance at August 31, 2021			\$ 5,805.86
Receipts:			
	Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa	\$ 123.95	
Total Receipts			\$ 123.95
Disbursements:			
	Picnic	\$ 457.24	
	Bulk Mail Deposit	\$ 50.00	
Total Disbursements		\$ -	\$ 507.24
Closing Balance at September 30, 2021			\$ 5,422.57

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer



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## ***French Broad Mensa Contacts***

**National Office**...817-607-0090...[AmericanMensa@mensa.org](mailto:AmericanMensa@mensa.org)

### **Region 5 Vice-Chairman**

Nancy Campbell ..... 704-533-3351 ..... [RVC5mail@gmail.com](mailto:RVC5mail@gmail.com)

### **French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:**

**Executive Committee** (January 2021- December 2022)

#### **Local Secretary**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Deputy Local Secretary**

Grace Lehto ..... [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com)

#### **Treasurer**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

#### **Member-at-Large**

Johanna Dokter ..... [johannadillo@gmail.com](mailto:johannadillo@gmail.com)

### **French Broad Mensa Appointed Officers:**

#### **Editor**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Publisher**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

#### **Webmaster**

Lizz Russell ..... [lizz@dnet.net](mailto:lizz@dnet.net)

#### **Testing Coordinators**

Mark Crossley ..... 704-798-3247 ..... [mcrossley@qualman.com](mailto:mcrossley@qualman.com)

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

#### **Proctors**

Karen Youket ..... 828-645-4569 ..... [kyouket@charter.net](mailto:kyouket@charter.net)

Carmen Jessup ..... [ciej@aol.com](mailto:ciej@aol.com)

#### **Ombudsman**

Will McGuffin ..... 828-274-5050 ..... [wmcguffin@gmail.com](mailto:wmcguffin@gmail.com)

#### **S.I.G.H.T.**

Lizz Russell ..... [lizz@dnet.net](mailto:lizz@dnet.net)

#### **Scholarship Chair**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

**Membership Coordinator** ..... Position Open

#### **Advisors**

Michael Havelin ..... [havelin@yahoo.com](mailto:havelin@yahoo.com)

Will McGuffin ..... 828-274-5050 ..... [wmcguffin@gmail.com](mailto:wmcguffin@gmail.com)



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