

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 28, No. 1, January 2022
<http://frenchbroad.us.mensa.org>



Happy New Year!

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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
January 2022

Monday, January 3, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting
at The Village Porch, 51 North Merrimon (in Reynolds Village)
RSVP by January 1 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Friday January 7, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch
at Outback Steakhouse, 30 Tunnel Road in Asheville
(just East of the tunnel)
If you plan to attend, contact Fae Armstrong
one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Saturday, January 15, 1:00pm: Urban Orchard Cider Co.
at 210 Haywood Rd. in West Asheville
<https://www.urbanorchardcider.com/>
We had so much fun there in November, we're gonna do it again!
Family-owned tasting room featuring house-made & guest ciders, local
beers & casual meals. Patio seating available. Parking in lot and on street.
RSVP by January 12 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Thursday, January 27, 6:00pm: Thu.D!
at La Carreta, 1916 Hendersonville Road in Asheville
<https://www.lacarretaavl.com/>
RSVP by January 25 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



Happy New Year 2022 to everyone! Let's hope that this new year is less exciting than 2020 and 2021, which brought us COVID and its many cancellations, reschedulings, Zoom meetings, and so forth. Many groups are already holding a few face to face meetings, and the adventurous have gone ahead with Regional Gatherings and Holiday Parties.

Let's start with issues that passed during the November 13th AMC meeting in Charlotte, NC. First, Committee Appointments: Jessica Ellis-Wilson of Boston Mensa was appointed Chair of the Diversity Committee, and five members were appointed to the Election Committee: Michele Clemente of Greater New York Mensa (Chair), Lowell Aplebaum of Metropolitan Washington Mensa, Jennifer Morris of San Diego Mensa, Scott Smith of Chicago Area Mensa, and Lee Stillman of Central New Jersey Mensa. Next there were a couple of Financial motions. One related to the Life Membership Fund policy, which was last updated in 2013, to clarify the language and intent by defining the principal of the fund, defining when the fund gets updated, changing the term "interest" to "investment returns", and adding a sentence regarding reinvestment in the fund. There was no financial impact of this motion. The other motion involved updating the deadlines for cancellations and refunds for AGs, which had previously been set to 10 days prior to the event, but hotel and event contracts have evolved since the policy was set in 2014, and more flexibility is required going forward. Both of these motions passed as well. As I reported last month, the last three motions were referred to a special committee composed of the Communications Officer, Robin Crawford; Chair of the Membership Committee, Kimberly Strickland, and Chair of the Marketing Committee, Tabby Vos. They are charged with rewording the motions regarding member preferences, and bringing the motions back for

discussion and approval during the next quarterly meeting on March 19, 2022.

Wishing you much success and happiness throughout the New Year,

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

MERF Scholarship Judges Needed

This is French Broad Mensa's 12th year of participation in the Mensa Education and Research Foundation scholarship program. The awards are based on an essay of not more than 550 words describing the applicant's academic and career goals. Three judges are required to evaluate the essays. Judging guidelines are provided. The judging process will be online. The essays are available for reading online. The judges will also receive a PDF of the essays. This would allow the judges to grade the essays offline then enter the scores online. The judging forms are Excel files. The deadline for entries is January 15. Judging must be completed by February 8. If you would like to serve as a judge, please contact Wayne Stanko at 253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net.

Holiday Party

French Broad Mensa's almost-annual Holiday Party was recently held at the home of Grace Lehto. FBM, and especially the members who attended, wholeheartedly thank Grace for her generosity in opening her home to us. Masking up and showing our vaccination cards didn't dampen the party spirits a bit!

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,

Should humans be looking for other planets to inhabit after we've screwed up this one so badly? What gives us the right to go out and screw up other planets?

Citizen of Earth

Dear Citizen,

Well, we've made it through yet another year... almost anyway... certainly by the time you're reading this column. Hooray. Good for us. But it wasn't our fault.

Has anyone besides me noticed that the world is in chaos mode? Has anyone else noticed that the magic of this benighted planet is being dissipated by the sheer biologic mass of humanity, the billions of us all scrambling to wrest what we can for our individual benefit and to hell with everyone else and the future? Too many pregnancies, some of them a permanent condition.

At least we're almost finished with the tough job of destroying our home planet. Hubris rules! And with this home job pretty much done, with all the crap in orbit around us and lowest bidder debris strategically placed at various tourist destinations on the moon, we are now turning our attention to messing up Mars. We can do it,

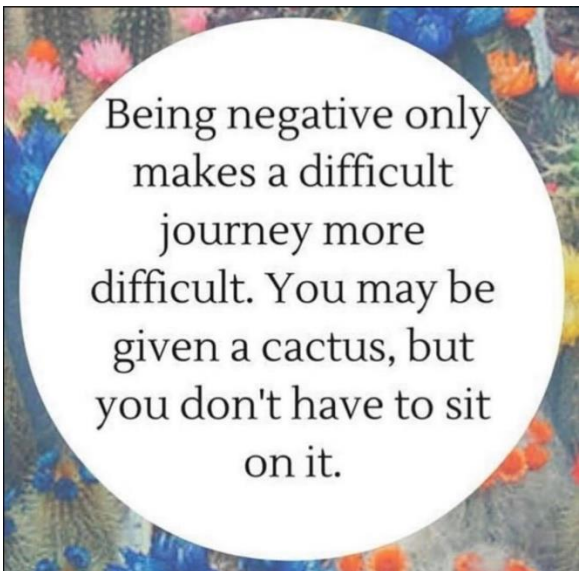

Gabbie goes on...

girls and boys. Yessiree, we sure can. And we're gonna too. Russia may have had Sputnik, India and China are shooting for the stars, and Iran and North Korea are cranking out nuclear missiles like hands of bananas, but I'm not worried a bit. In fact, we're lucky. After all, we have Elon.

P.S. It sure feels great to be able to write a positive column for a change. Thanks to all my fellow primates for this opportunity.

Your forward-thinking optimist,

Gabbie



Being negative only
makes a difficult
journey more
difficult. You may be
given a cactus, but
you don't have to sit
on it.

Local Secretary's Message



Your Executive Committee is adding something new and exciting to our calendar—a “Second Saturday” special event each month. Events might include a visit to the Radio Museum in Asheville and an Asheville Tourists home game. We had such a good time at The Urban Orchard Cider Company in November that we’re going back in January. What other local attractions can you suggest?

A warm welcome to members who have rejoined or moved into our area:

Cynthia Eayre

Mark Hunter

Happy January birthdays to:

Randy Farmer

Robert McCurdy

Charles Gurslin

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Talon Byers

Pradeep Darooka

Maria Douglass

Warren Hargis

Richard Heim

Mark Hunter

James Lesko

Marie Lewis

Larry Manofsky

Rich Miller

Rilyn Miller

Rebecca Norton

David Stroud

Kenneth Workman

Karen Youket

Wayne Zachary

Suzanne Zoss

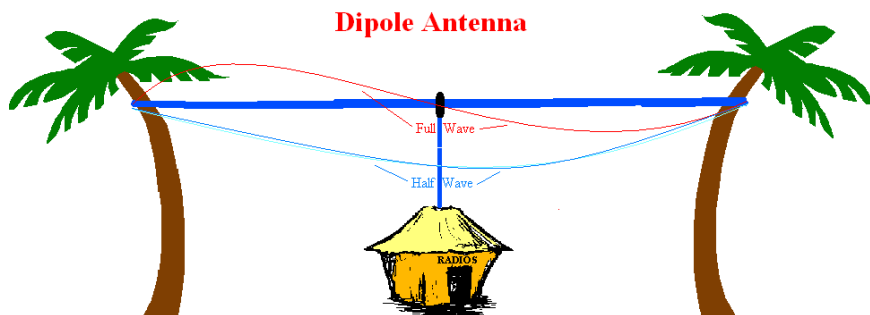
If your name is missing from any of the applicable “celebration” lists, please check your profile at AmericanMensa.org, to make sure you’re allowing display of your birthday, etc.

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com

HAM Radio – The Dipole Antenna

- by Bea Reddy



The simplest antenna is the dipole.

It consists of two conductors that are the same length. The conductors are wire or other metal items (metal rods, roof gutters, etc.). There is a coaxial feed line connected to the wires with a device called a balun (looks like a metal doughnut) in the middle. An example of a common dipole is TV rabbit ears.

For HAM radio, the most common antenna is the half-wave dipole. Conceptually, it is two pieces of wire that are the same length (determined by frequency), a balun (simple device to balance the signal between the wires and the coax and to reduce interference), and a coaxial feed line (50 ohm rating). For example, if the incoming signal is 10 meters, the total length of the two pieces of wire would be $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10 meters (5 meters/16 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet) or around 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ feet each. The two pieces of wire get attached to trees or poles or buildings or whatever anchors might be handy. The minimum height of the wires from the ground are determined by other factors such as terrain, etc. Generally speaking, the higher, the better.

You can make your very own dipole or you can buy one.

For further information, try some of these searches:

- dipole antenna radiation pattern
- half-wave dipole antenna
- how to make a dipole antenna
- how do dipoles work
- buy a dipole antenna

It's amazing what you can do with simple pieces of wire.

buIC kooB
by ***Sharron Armel***

By now you've figured out that a backward book club is one where someone suggests a book, and anyone who's interested in discussing it via Zoom will respond. So far, we have open invitations to share thoughts about:

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.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

This 2018 novel has spent more than 124 weeks on bestselling fiction lists; it has won the Booksellers Award in Japan and the British "Page Turner" Book of the Year Award.

Email SharronArmel@gmail.com

Is It Tomorrow Yet?

by **Michael F. Havelin** (copyright 2018)

“Is it tomorrow yet?” asked Tomaso.

“I don’t know,” said his friend Malawa. “It should be close by now.”

“It was just yesterday, wasn’t it? That seems like such a long time ago.”

“Time goes by so slowly sometimes. I’ve been waiting for tomorrow to come for days.”

“Me, too. When is it going to get here?” Mary whined.

“Yesterday I thought it would be here today, but now there’s another tomorrow coming, a different one.”

“Let’s figure this out. Then we’ll know for sure when it’s tomorrow.”

So they got their friends together and sat down in a circle to work out the problem of when tomorrow would arrive. It was very confusing indeed.

Malawa began the discussion. “The last time we all went to sleep it was yesterday, wasn’t it?”

Everyone agreed.

“Si,” said Tomaso.

“For sure,” said Amarosa.

“And two days ago it was yesterday’s yesterday.”

“Tomorrow and yesterday always come together, but there’s another day stuck in between them,” Jack stated

“That’s today, isn’t it?”

“Yes, but today was tomorrow yesterday, wasn’t it?” asked Fritz.

“And before yesterday there was another yesterday?” added Amarosa.

“That’s right. And today was tomorrow yesterday.”

“You mean yesterday was today and today was tomorrow?”

“Right. You’ve got it.”

“I’m confused,” said Tomaso. “If I went to sleep yesterday, I’d wake up today, wouldn’t I?”

“But what about tomorrow? Where did that go? That hasn’t happened yet.”

“Neither has today, not completely anyway.”

“That’s what’s so confusing. The days keep changing their names. They change from tomorrow to today to yesterday.”

“But tomorrow won’t always be tomorrow, will it?”

“No. We’ll go to sleep today, and when we wake up, tomorrow will be today. And today will have become yesterday.”

“It’s the grown-ups’ fault. They keep renaming the days. Every day is either yesterday, or today, or tomorrow.”

“I remember last week. It was the same thing then, too. Every day changes its name. It’s too confusing to remember it all.”

“Wait a minute. I thought that today was Tuesday.”

“It is. But tomorrow Tuesday will be yesterday.”

“Only tomorrow? Let me see... Tuesday will be yesterday tomorrow, Wednesday will be today, and Thursday will be tomorrow.”

“No it won’t. Wednesday is still tomorrow.”

“Only today. Tomorrow it’s going to be today.”

“Are you sure?”

“No. But it seems like that’s the way things work.”

“I can remember a lot of yesterday and part of today.”

“But will you remember today tomorrow?”

“I think so... if I can keep the days straight. I don’t want to get tomorrow in front of yesterday. Yesterday always has to be back there.” He pointed back over his shoulder. “And tomorrow is always in front of us.”

“Now you’ve got it.”

“But what are we supposed to call yesterday tomorrow? Yesterday will go backwards another day. What’s the word for it then?”

“Two days ago. Yesterday’s yesterday.”

“And what do we call two days ahead of us? Tomorrow’s tomorrow?”

“No. It’s gonna be Thursday.”

“But not if it’s tomorrow, I mean Wednesday. On Wednesday, Thursday will be tomorrow.”

“But this is only Tuesday.”

“Right. And tomorrow it’ll be yesterday... but only for tomorrow.”

“I like the weekends best.”

“Yeah. No school. But we have to go back on Monday.”

“And on Monday, Tuesday will be tomorrow, right?”

“Now you’re getting the idea.”

“And on Tuesday, Tuesday will be today, Monday will be yesterday, and Wednesday will be tomorrow... but only on Tuesday.”

“Which Tuesday? There are so many of them,” said Fritz.

“Don’t worry about it. Just take it one day at a time. It makes it all much simpler.”

“Okay, I think I get it now. So it’s not tomorrow yet,” Tomaso stated unsurely.

“Not yet. Soon though. Only a few more hours and then today will be yesterday and tomorrow will be here, but we’ll have to call it today.”

“Are you sure?”



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Home Automation

- by *Lizzz Russell*

The things you can do to your home to make life easier are simply astounding. You can wire your house to turn on your lights when you say, "Turn on the lights." Or you could have it respond to secret words or sounds like clapping.

You can add cameras to your house to keep an eye on what's going on.

You can tell your vacuum to clean while you're at work.

You can control the locks on your door.

The camera on your doorbell lets you see who is at your door.

You can tell your oven to turn on at 3:30 so that dinner will be ready when you get home at 5.

The possibilities are endless.

The things that can go wrong are also endless.

Somebody else can turn on your camera.

The camera on your vacuum could be hacked to record the inside of your home, thus giving a thief an opportunity to case the joint. Or if your pup has an accident, your vacuum could smear doggie poop everywhere it goes (unless you buy a vacuum with dog poop smearing prevention built in).

Somebody else could control the locks on your door. And if the power goes out and you have internet controlled locks, you might not be able to get in.

Somebody else could turn your oven on to 500 degrees at 9 a.m.

Things to think about:

Millions of Web Camera and Baby Monitor Feeds Are Exposed

<https://www.wired.com/story/kalay-iot-bug-video-feeds/>

7 Ways To Know If My Security Camera System Has Been Hacked
<https://monitoreal.com/7-ways-to-know-if-my-security-camera-system-has-been-hacked/>

Not so smart! How Amazon's cloud outage left millions who use 'smart' technology locked out of their homes, fridges, vacuum cleaners and house lighting systems!

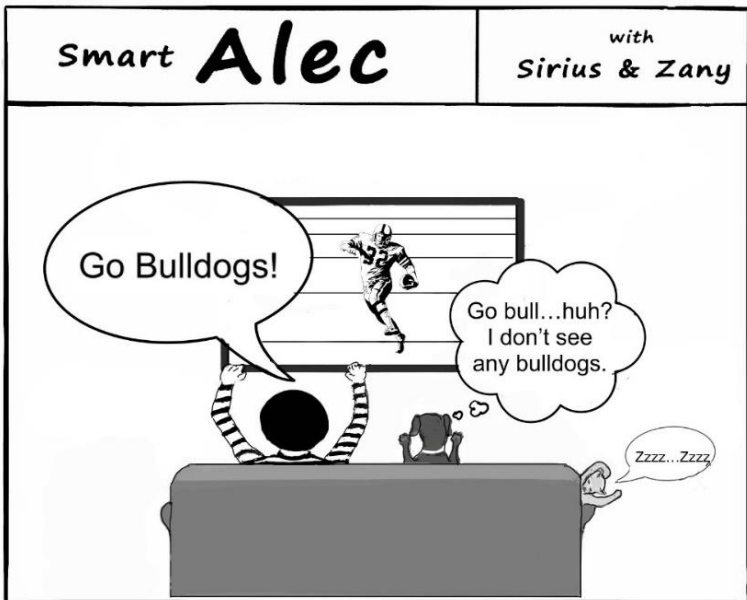
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10291367/First-world-problems-Amazon-outage-left-tens-thousands-without-Alexa-Roombas-Ring-apps.html>

These robot vacuums have built-in cameras. Here's what they can do
<https://www.digitaltrends.com/home/these-robot-vacuums-have-built-in-cameras-heres-what-they-can-do/>

Detecting Activities of Daily Living with Smart Meters

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/267335003_Detecting_Activities_of_Daily_Living_with_Smart_Meters

Smart Alec



BettyHass 2021

New Year's Resolutions

I will...

1. Get divorced and remarried only once this year.
2. Go back to school ...to avoid paying my student loans.
3. Switch my username to “password” and my password to “username” to make each a lot harder for hackers to figure out.
4. Help kids stay safe by not texting on my cell phone while eating McDonald's and speeding through crosswalks in school zones with a frost-covered windshield.
5. Stop buttering my doughnuts.
6. Try to cope with my nomophobia (fear of being left without a mobile phone or being in an area without coverage).
7. Overcome old fears and find new ones to replace them.
8. Before using a public toilet, I will always check for toilet paper.
9. Become the GOAT at sarcasm.

I will not

10. Drink orange juice after I've just brushed my teeth.
11. Act my age! (Never have, never will!)
12. Make any New Year's Resolutions!



Relaxation

Grab your colored pencils and mellow out!



Member-to-Member Services

by Sharron Armel

Have you created a service or product that you'd like to share with fellow members? Would you be interested in placing an ad in the *BROADCAST* offering your work to the group? Please contact the Editor (sharronarmel@gmail.com) so I can assess the group's interest. As the idea develops, more information will become available.

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, December 6, at The Village Porch in North Asheville. Present were Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.

We finalized plans for the Holiday Party to be held at the home of Grace Lehto on Saturday, December 11. Sharron will send out a reminder email, emphasizing that members & guests will be expected to show proof of vaccination before entering, and to wear masks when not eating or drinking.

RSVP deadline is Wednesday, December 8. Grace will report the count to those who are preparing food, so they'll know how much to bring.

Submitted by ***Grace Lehto***, Deputy Local Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Closing Balance at October 31, 2021			\$ 5,533.37
Receipts:			
Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa	\$ 107.95		
Total Receipts			\$ 107.95
Disbursements:			
Mailing expense	\$ 10.69		
Total Disbursements	\$ -		\$ 10.69
Closing Balance at November 30, 2021			\$ 5,630.63

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)

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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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Carmen Jessup ciej@aol.com

Ombudsman

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

S.I.G.H.T.

Lizz Russell lizz@dnet.net

Scholarship Chair

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

Membership Coordinator Position Open

Advisors

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



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