

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 28, No. 3, March 2022

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



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Pat Benard, Johanna Dokter, Will McGuffin,

Lizzz Russell and Karen Youket

whose sharp eyes & minds keep the *BROADCAST* lookin’ good.

Submissions to the Broadcast

Deadline for articles, letters, and comments 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
March 2022

Friday, March 4, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

At Olive Garden 121 Tunnel Road in Asheville

If you plan to attend, contact Fae Armstrong

one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Monday, March 7, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

at Happy Cinco de Mayo, 800 Fairview Rd Suite 5C

in the River Ridge shopping center in East Asheville

RSVP by March 6 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Saturday, March 12, 1:00pm: Second Saturday Gathering

An early celebration of Pi Day and Einstein's Birthday

With GAMES!

At the home of Grace Lehto, 25 Hopedale Circle in Asheville

Because this is a private home, attendees will be asked to show proof of vaccination before entering.

RSVP by March 10 to GraceLehto@yahoo.com

Thursday, March 24, 6:00pm: Thu.D!

at Thai Pearl, 747 Haywood Road in West Asheville

RSVP by March 22 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

RSVPs are important for table planning, and many public eateries are still operating at limited 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



There is an old Oriental curse that goes, “May you live in interesting times.” These, my friends, are interesting times. The nation is divided roughly 50-50 politically. COVID is still rampant. A wave of depression is sweeping across the United States as folks hunker down in their bunkers trying to avoid COVID. Many people lost their jobs; some are still struggling with “long haul” COVID; we are suffering from supply problems in many areas; and many are struggling with

losing some of the weight they put on during the two years of this pandemic.

But look on the bright side: now we finally have time to plan things ahead of time instead of just sitting and bemoaning the way things are going! When I was first elected RVC 5, three years ago now, I put together a set of goals for the Southeast Region, and tacked it to the wall above my computer. From time to time I sit and reflect on how things are going. Some things are doing fine – like my determination to have more Leadership Development Workshops (LDWs.) I think Region 5 was the only Region to hold a Regional LDW in 2020 (in Mobile, AL), and we had a half-day LDW in Charlotte, NC in November 2021. Who will commit to hosting an LDW later in 2022? Ideal locations would be Nashville, TN or somewhere in Georgia. All we need is a host – I’ll help round up speakers and do all the advertising...

Another of my goals is growth, and that is not so much of a success. COVID has not helped with that – at all! Only a few groups are attempting face to face meetings, and even fewer groups are holding testing sessions. This latter I really don’t understand. Here in Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa, we just put the testing candidates one to a table, and everyone wears masks, so it is about as safe as it can be. Some groups have mentioned that their free testing site is not available yet. The answer there is to find a couple more sites! We use the American Red

Cross, and I have tested at the Red Cross facilities in Salisbury, NC as well as Charlotte, NC. The Red Cross has truly plush training rooms. We have also gotten permission to use several libraries, by pointing out that we are not selling anything – the money goes to Mensa national for grading the tests, and we use vouchers, so that money does not change hands at the test session.

Finally, I would love to have more groups holding Regional Gatherings (RGs.) Members from both Middle Tennessee Mensa and Coastal Carolina Mensa have mentioned that they are thinking of putting on an RG. One easy way to start with this is to host an all-game weekend...

My daffodils are already sprouting, so Spring can't be too far off...

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Local Secretary's Message

Please don't forget to renew your membership for the year ahead!

As of January 31, we have 128 members spread across 30 different ZIP codes. How many of your fellow French Broad Mensa members have you met? Many of us know only a few. Attending group events is a great way to make contact, but not everyone finds in-person meetings convenient. You can participate from

home! Writing articles for this newsletter and following one or more Special Interest Groups (SIGs) supported by American Mensa are just a few ways to meet your fellow members.



How did you happen to join Mensa? Do you know someone who might enjoy participating in our group, and in American Mensa? You can refer

them to our website to get a sense of who we are and what we do:

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

and to the national website for testing information:

www.us.mensa.org

In the past year, 26 people purchased the Mensa PracticeTest and two paid the Prior Evidence Submission fee. Two other individuals requested information about testing.

Happy March birthdays to:

Henry Bovee

Johanna Dokter

William Peyton

Lester Pulst

Peter Shanahan

Michael Shelley

Sandy Stoddard

Kenneth Workman

Robert Youngblood

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Jeff Catanese

Marie Chamberlin

Janis Durr

Mark Gamble

Charles Gursslin

Michael Dean Hart

Michael Korstange

John Levengood

Dean Little

Nolan Prescott

Lester Pulst

James Stewart

Welcome to members who have joined our goup:

Brian Iacaponi has moved into our area

Frederick Tucker has rejoined

Farewell to members who have moved out of our goup:

Lauren Demchak

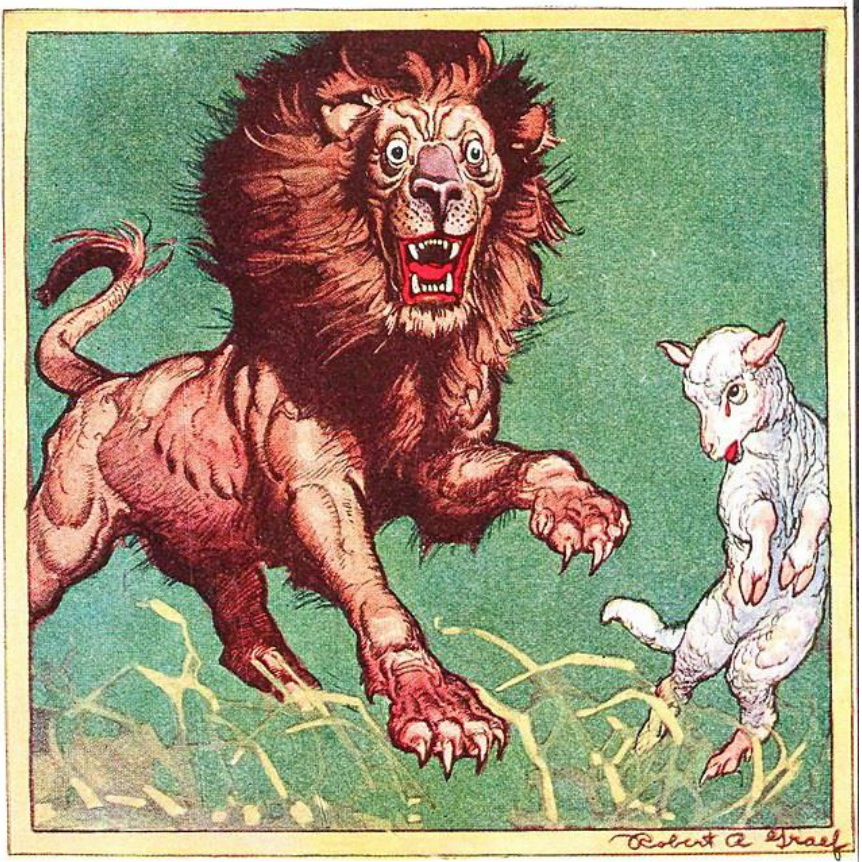
Ron Jones

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

Are You Ready for MARCH??



Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

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



Sumthin' fo' Y'all

You all know me to generally be pretty down on humanity, but I've been doing some hard thinkin' and there's one thing I found that's a disaster we didn't cause (not unless it came out of some chemical warfare laboratory out in the wilds of Nowhereia).

I'm talking about COVID. We didn't do that. It's not like the holes in the ozone layer, or the starvation of millions because clever pesticides are killing off the pollinating bees, or digging all those holes in the ground to get at the minerals therein. Nope. You can lay COVID at the oversize calloused feet of good old Mother Nature. We didn't do it and the thousands of bodies piling up all over the place are because of how we handled the problem by not being ready for a worldwide godamic. We thought we were being patriotic by having our eyes fixed on the Almighty Dollar. Wrong! As an old buddy of mine used to say: there's a whole lot of not paying attention going on. We're all just another mammal species after all, ain't us?

Hey, how about this idea? Let's have a Mensa Chickenpox Party. We can open it up to the public and charge admission. Who knows how many testees (that's a Mensa "technical term") we could sign up? The idea behind the party is that if we all get COVIDed together, we'll get "herd immunity" (uplifting phrase, eh?) and

Gabbie goes on...

not have to worry about Delta, Omicron, or whatever the next ghastly horror is heading down the Road of Inevitability toward us. Makes some sense... in a twisted sort of way.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch (read: a million miles from Earth), the James Webb telescope has successfully made its second correction. Hooray for Science! Maybe we'll finally get an understanding of what this universe is really all about. Maybe the aliens will reveal themselves 'cause we're out there spying on 'em.

Anybody got any questions? Wachuthink? Anything?

Gabbie



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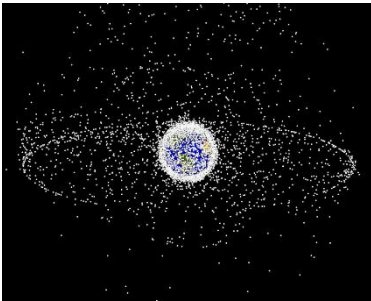
Space Junk—What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

by *Josie*

Back in 1978, a NASA scientist named Donald J. Kessler was thinking about satellites and conceived a scenario in which there were so many satellites and space junk in orbit around the earth that collisions would become frequent. This line of thought is known as the **Kessler Syndrome** or **ablation cascade**.

He thought that there will come a point where the collisions are so frequent that it will interfere with satellites in certain orbits and will also interfere with space exploration for generations. In addition, it turns out that astronomical observations will also be affected for years to come.

The average life span of a satellite is 7-10 years. There are currently around 4,500 satellites in orbit. At the end of their service, low earth objects get pulled back down to earth to hopefully burn up, and high earth objects get pushed out further into space where they float on and on and on.



Computer-generated image from 2005 of space debris populations seen from outside [geosynchronous orbit](#) (GSO). There are two primary debris fields: the ring of objects in GSO and the cloud of objects in [low Earth orbit](#) (LEO).

NASA image, Public domain, via Wikimedia Common

Right now there are tentative plans to launch over 300,000 satellites into low earth orbit by companies such as SpaceX (12,000 + 20,000), Amazon (3,236), Telesat (248), OneWeb (648), E-Space (100,000 + 200,000), and by various governments including China (13,000 megaconstellation).

And this is just the beginning.

Where will all this lead?

Further reading:

Is there enough room in space for tens of billions of satellites as Elon Musk suggests? We don't think so:

<https://spacenews.com/op-ed-is-there-enough-room-in-space-for-tens-of-billions-of-satellites-as-elon-musk-suggests-we-dont-think-so/>

Gunter's Space Page – Info on Rockets, Launch Vehicles, Satellites, Astronauts

<https://space.skyrocket.de/directories/sat.htm>

Are You Ready for MARCH??



Bob & the Bobettes

February update: The Bobettes are progressing. Look at that growth spurt – almost 4” tall! ***Grace Lehto*** is taking good care of the four new pineapple plants clustered around Bob.



Photograph by Michael Havelin

HAMS on MARS
(the Military Auxiliary Radio System)

by Bea Reddy

Who helps people get in touch with their loved ones during natural disasters when the phone lines are down? Amateur radio operators help through a service called MARS.



Back in 1925, Captain Thomas Rives of the Army Signal Corps put together a group of Amateur Radio operators to help the Signal Corps during times of war and to support civilian agencies during disaster relief efforts. This first group was called AARS (Army Amateur Radio System).

This group of licensed and trained amateur radio operators expanded in scope and eventually became known as MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System).

MARS augments many organizations including all military branches, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) including FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). It is also part of programs such as the DHS SHARed RESources (SHARES) emergency communications program.

Being able to work with so many different agencies, so many types of equipment, and in a variety of conditions requires quite a bit of training and coordination.

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, February 7 at the new south branch of the Early Girl Eatery. Officers and advisors present were Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko. Group member Mark Crossley attended as a visitor.

Sharron welcomed Mark, and brought everyone up to date on our testing and proctor status: Our two proctors, Karen Youket and Carmen Jessup, are still active, as American Mensa is temporarily not enforcing the 2-year recertification rule. However, we are fortunate to have a Mensa-authorized testing center here in Asheville, and Wayne (as Testing Coordinator) will refer any candidates who desire testing there.

Grace, Will and Sharron are completing their judging of the essays submitted for this year's scholarships. Grace suggested that we use some funds from our treasury to award an additional scholarship to one of the applicants. Sharron will discuss with RVC Nancy Campbell to understand any American Mensa requirements that might affect our plan.

Locations for March events were established:

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

Treasurer's Report

Closing Balance at December 31, 2021		\$ 5,643.58
Receipts:		
Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa	\$ 110.65	
Total Receipts		\$ 110.65
Disbursements:		
Meeting Expenses	\$ 30.00	
Bulk Mail Deposit	\$ 50.00	
Total Disbursements		\$ 80.00
Closing Balance at January 31, 2022		\$ 5,674.23

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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S.I.G.H.T.

Lizz Russell lizz@dnet.net

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