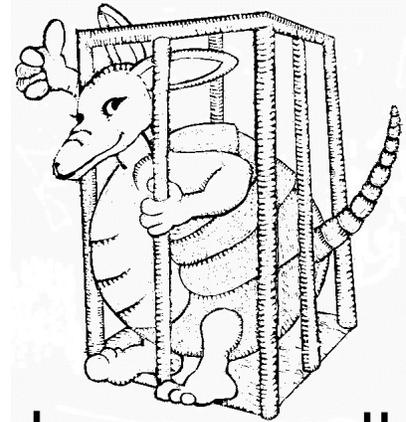


# Armadillo Literary Gazette

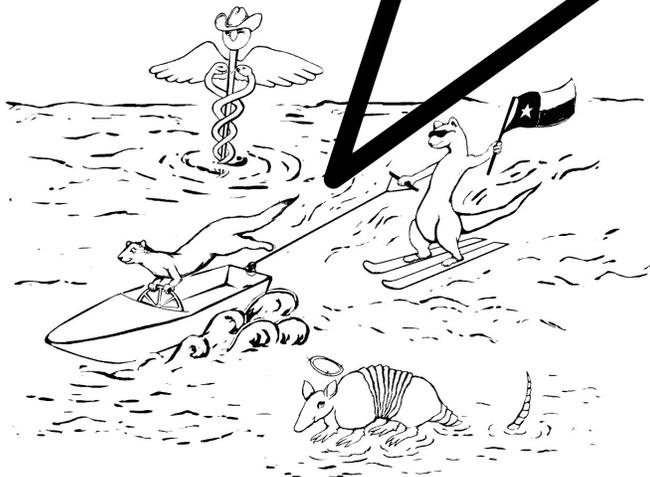
A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXX Number 9

September 2003



**LonestarRG II**  
October 6-8, 2000  
crime & PUNishment



# Lonestar Mensa Officers and Staff

Web Site: <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>

## President †

John Neemidge  
(512) 310-7863                      neemidge@usa.net  
1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX, 78681-7126

## Vice President †

Margaret Wofford  
(512) 266-8065                      m\_wofford@yahoo.com

## Treasurer †

Midge Kocen  
(512) 502-8294                      midserv@austin.rr.com

## Members at Large †

Helen Siders  
(512) 799-6985                      xlartemis@austin.rr.com

Janet Kres  
(512) 836-5773                      j\_kres@msn.com

Mark Kres  
(512) 836-5773                      j\_kres@msn.com

## Program Chair \*

Volunteer needed. Please contact John Neemidge if you are interested. (512) 310-7863 or neemidge@usa.net.

## Publicity \*

Paul Anderson  
(512) 259-7824                      wrdslngr@swbell.net

## Newsletter Circulation Manager \*

Helen Siders  
(512) 799-6985                      xlartemis@austin.rr.com

## Gifted Children Resource \*

Michele Vaughan  
(512) 388-5970                      michelerenee@austin.rr.com

## Testing Coordinator \*

Sam Waring  
(512) 453-0730                      curmudgn@prismnet.com

## Membership †

Geri Neemidge  
(512) 310-7863                      gneemidge@usa.net

## Bryan-College Station Area Coordinator

Jim Miller  
(979) 777-9546                      hj\_miller@msn.com

## Waco Area Coordinator \*

Jerry Lenamon  
(254) 399-9450

## Ombudsman/Arbiter \*

Kelly Wagner  
(512) 443-9650                      BunRab@aol.com

## SIGHT Coordinator \*

Steve Vaughan  
(512) 388-5970                      sv@blackhat.net

## Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Dan Wilterding  
(817) 573-4454 (before 10PM)  
rvc6@us.mensa.org  
504 Atchley Dr, Granbury TX 76048

† -- Elected position (voting) ‡-- Appointed position (voting)

\* -- Appointed position (non-voting)

## American Mensa, Ltd.

(817) 607-0060  
AmericanMensa@us.mensa.org  
www.us.mensa.org  
1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103

## Newsletter Editor \*

Rachael Stewart  
(512) 407-9753                      bookbird@yahoo.com  
506 Canion St, Austin TX 78752

## Contributing Editors for September:

Barbara Bartlett  
Hugh Brown

---

## Publication Information

**POSTMASTER:** Please send change of address to:

### ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE

c/o American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103

The *ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE* (USPS 554-650), the official publication of Lonestar Mensa, Group 786 of American Mensa, Ltd., is published monthly at 13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin, TX 78729. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX.

Mensans who are not members of Lonestar Mensa may subscribe for \$10.00 per year. Send subscription requests to the publication address.

Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text format only) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works copyrighted by the author.

## Advertising Rates and Policies

Non-commercial: Lonestar Mensa members may submit 2 per year at no charge. 4 line maximum, subject to editor's discretion as to date of publication.

Commerical: Business card sized (2" x 3") ads are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Publication may be delayed due to space considerations. Ads must be camera-ready, and should be submitted electronically if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit for content if necessary. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. The deadline for ad submission is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

## A Word to the Wise

-by John Neemidge, President

### Busy Busy Busy

As I'm writing this, I'm deep in preparation for LonestarRG V. Since most of you will get this in your mailbox before the RG, I'll start this out with an exhortation — if you're reading this before the RG, do not hesitate — get yourself to the Holiday Inn Northwest in Austin over Labor Day weekend! We've got a great weekend planned, and the one thing that'll make it better is you. You can register on-site for the whole weekend for \$60 or for a single day — Friday and Monday are \$15 each, Saturday and Sunday \$30 each. If you've read my columns before you know what's in store for you; if you haven't, I encourage you to go see the RG website at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm> and see for yourself. We have pictures from previous years' RG's there, preliminary program and speaker information, schedules, frequently asked questions, and more. We know from group surveys that the number one reason most people say they joined Mensa is to meet smart people. LonestarRG is your best opportunity to follow through on that goal — I hope you'll join us!

After LonestarRG is over, my personal plan is to rest. After that, though, we have a busy month as usual, with our Monthly Meeting, Games Night, TGIT, and more. Geri and I will be hosting our end-of-summer pool party, called the Tropical Adventure. We have lots of fun decorating for and hosting it — I hope you'll come join us! Also, please mark Halloween night, Friday October 31st, on your calendar — we'll be hosting our annual Halloween party on Halloween itself this year.

The other big thing for September is elections. We need volunteers for the Nominating Committee and the Election Committee (you can be on both; most members of one are on the other, traditionally). We also need candidates for the various offices. Several members of the current ExComm will run for their current positions again; other offices will be vacant. Any member is of course welcome to run for any group office. The job of the Nominating Committee is to prepare a list of candidates for each office; the job of the Election Committee is to conduct the election itself. Usually the candidates declare themselves, and the election format is well understood, so each committee is traditionally only a few hours' commitment. We really need these committees filled, though, and soon — it's a quick and easy way to help out your Mensa group!

**It's Not Too Late!!!**

## LonestarRG

**LonestarRG V: Five Year Reunion**

**Aug. 29-31, Sep. 1, 2003**

**Austin, TX**

- Your favorite speakers from past years
- Speakers on reading, writing, and 'rithmetic
- Prom
- Discussion room
- Games and contests
- Scholarship raffle
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Comedy/variety show
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!



It's not too late to join the fun! We've got so much planned for you at our fifth annual RG — don't miss out! Registration is \$60 at the door for the weekend, or \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday, \$30 for Sunday, and \$15 for Monday (children 7-14 half price, 6 and under are free). The RG is at the Holiday Inn Northwest, at 8901 Business Park Drive in Austin. Registration is on the second floor of the guest room area — take the lobby elevators. For more information, including pictures from previous LonestarRG's, a list of registrants, and more, see our web page (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>)

# Raising the Boom

-by Barbara Bartlett

Does anyone besides me still iron? Ironing seems to be such a part of my memory of being a kid in the 50s and 60s. I quit ironing in the 70s—it just wasn't done! Then, in the 80s when I wanted to really impress—I'd iron something. Then came the 90s, and suddenly the most unlikely people were ironing! My son even learned to starch and iron his Wranglers!

I have some scary early memories of ironing. Do you remember those big "flat presses" or "ironing machines"? Mother had one of those, and I was scared to death of that hot, steamy, hissing thing. Later, when I was a little older and it was time for me to learn to iron, Mother started me out with pillowcases, then Daddy's flour sack underwear, and finally those awful cotton slips—the ones with all the ruffles!

Laundry was done with a wringer washing machine. Since water at our house came from a cistern, there was a problem. If the washing machine stayed on the porch, then the water had to be hauled up the steps to fill the tubs. If the water was not to be hauled, then the washer had to be lifted down off the porch and our into the yard.

Each location had its own advantage. On the porch, the water didn't have to be carried as far once heated on the stove to keep the tubs warm. In the yard, the clothesline was just a step away to hang the clothes.

Mother would try to take the clothes down off the line while they were still damp to do the ironing. Clothes that had been starched had to be "sprinkled" to stay damp before ironing. In the summer, you had to get the ironing done before the clothes soured (or keep them in the "ice box").

Spray starch changed things. I remember saving up clothes until the weekend to iron after that. I remember in the 60s going to my aunt's house and ironing for her on Saturdays. I would set up the ironing board in front of the TV and iron all afternoon (while watching the old country music programs) for \$2 or \$3. Porter Waggoner sure saw me doing a lot of ironing!

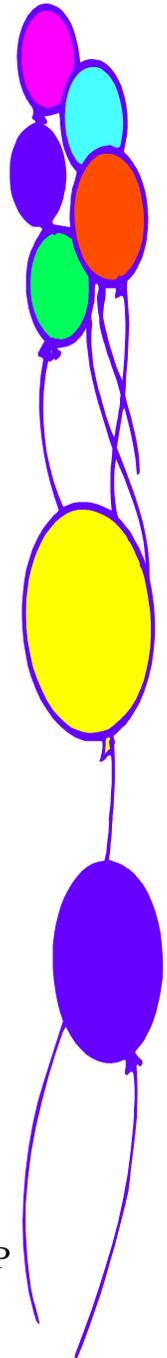
Then there was a period where the iron and I didn't see much of each other. Gradually, though, we have come full circle, and I still pull out the ironing board on the weekends. Now, though, Sunday night is my ironing evening. I try to have everything ready to go back to work on Monday, and the last thing I do is the ironing. Actually, if I don't get around to some of it this week, back in the

basket it goes until next week. The trouble with that is that some of those clothes spend a long time in the basket. Tonight I ironed a long-sleeved white shirt. And it's August! I haven't worn that shirt in months!



## September

- 2 Debra Joslin
- George Palmer
- 4 Michael Barker
- 5 Joel Ogden
- 6 Andrew Alan Rogers
- 7 Dan Allen Flanagan
- 8 Brian Orrick
- 9 Barbara Erskine Bartlett
- Gary W Greif
- John William Hall
- 10 David Wayne Dyer
- Tara Elizabeth Pehl
- 11 Mr Michael Martino
- 14 Manuel Todd Davenport
- 16 William Darrell Cheek
- Donald Allen Link
- Harold V Morgan Jr
- Khurram Qureshi
- 17 Ms Dana Lynn Holland
- 18 Rugh James Cline
- Capt Howard A Konetchy
- 20 Wayne Butterfield
- George J Van Riper
- 23 John C Foster
- 24 Frederick Charles Bothwell III
- Allen Vorwerk
- 25 Beth Elaine Benton
- Maj Jackson Daugherty
- 26 Rory A Boatright
- Ms Lynn Herrick
- Kathleen Holiman
- 27 James Bryan Hill
- Mr William Richard Jones CCP
- 28 Vaughn E Akins
- Kim Brushaber
- 30 Michael Britton



# Showdown

-by Hugh Brown

On the night of February 2, 2003, I had a dream. In this dream I was playing a card game with three other people. The game was unlike any card game I had ever seen. I awoke from the dream at about 5am and remembered the game well enough to write down most of the rules. Later, I figured out what the rest of the rules needed to be and also a name. I call the game Showdown.

I have since played Showdown quite a few time with various friends, most recently at the Mensa RG in Houston. Everybody likes the game. You will, too. The rules are simple, the optimum strategy is not. There is more to Showdown than first appears. Here are the rules.

Showdown is for two or more players. The game is played with an ordinary deck of playing cards with the jokers removed. For four or five players, use two decks. For six or more players, use three decks.

Shuffle the cards, cut, and deal each player a hand of five cards. The rest of the cards form the draw pile. The player to the left of the dealer has the first lead.

The cards have a point value and a dominance value. The point value is equal to the number on two through ten. Jacks count eleven, queens twelve, kings thirteen, and aces are fifteen.

The dominance value is first determined by the suit. The order of dominance is the well-known reverse alphabetical order of spades high, then hearts, then diamonds, then clubs. Any diamond beats any club, any heart beats any diamond or club, and any spade beats any heart, diamond, or club. Within a suit, a higher point value card beats a lower. For example, the seven of hearts will beat the four of hearts, the king of diamonds, or the three of clubs, but not the queen of hearts or the two of spades. If in a multideck game there is a tie for the highest card, the last one played wins.

The object of the game is to score the most points possible; high score wins.

Play is as follows. Unless he passes, the player with the lead takes a card from his hand and without showing to anyone else lays it face down on the table. Play proceeds to the left until each player has played or passed in similar fashion. Thus each player has to commit to the card he will play before he knows what cards the others are playing. When that is done, each player who has not passed turns over his face down card in the order played. The high card (dominance order) wins the first round of

that set. The one who played it scores points, the point value of the winning card multiplied by the number of cards played in that set. If the first round saw four cards played with the six of diamonds high, he who played the six would score 24 points, six times four.

The winner of each round has the lead for the next round. For the higher rounds (until a new set is begun) the cards from previous rounds are left face up on the table. The cards of the current round are played face down as before. In the second and higher rounds play is limited to cards higher in dominance order than the winning card in the previous round. Following the example of first round play, in the second round one could play only a seven or higher diamond or a heart or a spade. Any player whose hand does not contain a valid play for that round is forced to pass. Also, any player who passes in any round of a set must pass in all higher rounds of that set.

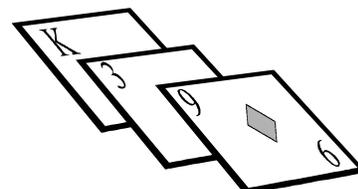
Suppose in the second round four more cards are played and the jack of hearts wins. The player of the jack scores 88 points, eleven times the eight cards played so far in the set. In subsequent rounds, as the number of cards played in the set increases, larger scores are possible.

After any round in which only one card or no card is played, the cards in that set are cleared off into a discard pile and a new set is begun.

After each round, each person who played a card in that round draws a card from the draw pile in the order they played in that round, so the hands are brought back up to five cards for the next round. When the draw pile is exhausted, the players play out their hands until no cards are left. If you are out of cards, obviously you have to pass. When all players are out of cards, the game is over.

If in a first round all players were to pass, the game would stall out. Therefore, in a first round where everyone wants to pass, the last player who has a card must play. Other than in this situation, note that a player is free to pass in any round whether or not his hand contains a valid play.

If you want to play with four or more people but have only one deck of cards, when the draw pile runs out you can shuffle the discard pile and use it for a new draw pile to give the game the proper length. With six or more people do this twice.



## Hello Region 6

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

Soon you will have yet another opportunity to amend our bylaws, and I hope that you will carefully examine the proposals. The matters being presented will include whether we should modify the date range for the Annual Gathering (currently June 1 through July 15) in order to accommodate the already-committed-date for the World Gathering/AG in 2006, which is almost a month outside of the allowable range as the bylaws now stand. Also part of the consideration is the timing and venue for the Annual Business Meeting which according to our current bylaws must be held at the AG (the currently approved dates). Another item is likely to be a modification of the beginning and ending dates for the terms of the AMC members.

One proposed solution has been to convene the ABM in Texas during the allowable period and then immediately recess, reconvening at the AG during the period beginning August 8; or to hold the ABM at a time and place entirely separate from the AG, thereby denying the bulk of the those that would otherwise attend the reasonable opportunity to do so.

I see our bylaws as mandating that the Annual Business Meeting and the AG are held together. Please read the current bylaws yourself and then vote according to your best judgment. Copies are available either online (<http://www.us.mensa.org>) or by request from the national office.

Please talk to your representatives on the AMC, let them know what you think and why. This year we have two chances to see the AMC at work in this region: September 19-21 in Arlington, Texas and again in New Orleans during NORGY VI (December 12-14). I urge you to come watch, to take part, and to be part of the business of this Mensa of ours.

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6  
[rvc6@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc6@us.mensa.org)    [dtwtech@swbell.net](mailto:dtwtech@swbell.net)  
817-573-4454 (before 9 P.M.)  
504 West Atchley Drive Granbury, Texas 76048

Remember these gatherings:

The Feast of Pleasures and Delight, Thanksgiving weekend,  
North Texas Mensa, Carol Hilson - Registrar  
[c\\_Hilson@msn.com](mailto:c_Hilson@msn.com)

NORGY VI — New Orleans Regional Gathering, y'all  
At the Maison Dupuy Hotel (in the French quarter), December 12-14, Co-hosted by New Orleans and Baton Rouge Mensas,  
Contact: Online — <http://www.norgy.us.mensa.org>  
USPS — NORGY, c/o Baton Rouge Mensa

## September Monthly Meeting

September's speaker will be Judge Joel Bennett of the Travis County Drug Court. Mr. Bennett has a wide and extensive experience in the legal profession. After receiving his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas Law School in 1977 and admission to the State Bar of Texas the same year, Mr. Bennett became an Assistant County Attorney for Travis County. In 1980, He founded the firm Joel B. Bennett, P.C. as his private practice. He has represented Austin Community College, Capitol Metro, the City of Austin, the State Board of Insurance, and the Texas Department of Insurance in litigation. As a former real estate title researcher and examiner, Mr. Bennett also has a strong background in real estate law in addition to his diverse practice in civil and criminal litigation.

During his term as Assistant County Attorney, Mr. Bennett saw firsthand how many individuals destroyed their lives by the use and sale of drugs. Ultimately, this experience led him to seek an appointment as a Travis County Drug Court Judge in 1993. He takes great pride in serving the community by giving direction and inspiration to those who have fallen prey to the evils of drugs. He has also used his expertise to help other jurisdictions create and effectively operate drug courts. He strongly believes in the positive role a drug court can play in building better communities.

## August ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Margaret Wofford, Vice President

Attending: John Neemidge, President; Margaret Wofford, Vice President; Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair; and Janet Kres and Mark Kres, Members at Large.

John convened the meeting at 10:10.

Janet presented the list of 63 2003 RG pre-registrations. John pointed out that at least two people who have registered do not appear on the list.

Attendees discussed moving the monthly meeting to a weekday evening. ExComm members will try to find suitable meeting space after the RG.

John presented a lengthy draft of a motion dealing with the structure and financing of future RGs. Attendees read through the motion and proposed several modifications. John will incorporate the suggestions and present the motion at the next ExComm meeting.

John adjourned the meeting at 10:55.

## What's Happening in September

### Thank Goodness It's Thursday

#### Central Market Café

##### Every Thursday

6:00-8:00pm

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

(512) 206-1020

Meet us in the Café after work for fun, conversation & food. Prospective members welcome. Central Market Café is located in the Central Park shopping center on the east side of Lamar Blvd between 38<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Streets. Central Market is the anchor store. Central Market Café is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

### Bridge in Austin (Cedar Park)!

#### Friday, 12 September

7:00pm

#### Pete Guy's Home

(512) 219-8723

**RSVP Required:** peteguy@attglobal.net

Enjoy playing bridge with other Mensans! Group decides whether to play rubber or duplicate. Room for up to 15 individuals, or 8 pairs. RSVP by 11:59PM preceeding Tuesday. Confirmation, directions returned Wednesday morning.

Beware of cat who owns the house. He displays his feelings by lying on his back, or rubbing against guests' legs, purring. No smoking. No alcohol. Sodas, coffee, tea, munchies provided. May meet other Texas Mensans - invitation extended to Houston, Austin, and San Antonio groups.

### ExComm Meeting

#### Saturday, 13 September

10:00am

#### University Hills Branch

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Contact John Neemidge at (512) 310-7863 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

Take 183 to Manor Rd. exit; go west on Manor Road past the HEB; turn left at the next light, which is Loyola. The library is on the right, less than one block up Loyola.

### Monthly Meeting

#### Saturday, 13 September

11:00am-1:00pm

#### Austin Public Library

#### University Hills Branch

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Please see the announcement on page 6 for meeting details. Take 183 to Manor Rd. exit; go west on Manor Road past the HEB; turn left at the next light, which is Loyola. The library is on the right, less than one block up Loyola.

### Tropical Adventure Pool Party

#### Saturday, 13 September

6:00pm

#### The Neemidge's

1807 Messick Place, Round Rock

(512) 310-7863

Bid summer farewell in style at the annual Tropical Adventure party. Sip Mai Tais by (or in) the pool, pose for a picture with lei-bedecked goats, llamas or ferrets, cook dinner on the grill, and enjoy the balmy tropical night. Wear something tropical, and bring a side dish or dessert to share and something to put on the grill, as well as your bathing suit and towel. Children welcome before 8:00 PM.

We'll be at the Neemidges', 1807 Messick Place in Round Rock.

Directions

From Mopac/1325: Follow 1325 to the intersection with Wells Branch Parkway/Howard. Turn onto Howard. Follow it 2.5 miles

to McNeil-Round Rock Rd (follow the sign on Howard pointing to McNeil Post Office). Follow McNeil-Round Rock past the Austin White Lime plant for 2.3 miles. Eventually a wooden fence will appear on your left. Take the first left, which will be Messick Loop West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

From 183: At the intersection of 183 and Spicewood Springs/McNeil Dr., take McNeil Dr. Go 3.3 miles on McNeil, past the light at Parmer and past the high school. Turn left onto McNeil-Round Rock Rd. Follow McNeil-Round Rock past the Austin White Lime plant for 2.3 miles. Eventually a wooden fence will appear on your left. Take the first left, which will be Messick Loop West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

From I-35: Take the McNeil Rd. exit (from the north this will be the same as the 620 exit, from the south there is a separate exit). If coming from the south, turn left onto McNeil Rd; if from the north, turn right. Follow McNeil Rd. 1.7 miles. Eventually you will see Messick Loop East. Continue half a mile or so and take the next right at Messick Loop West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

### Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

#### Wednesday, 17 September

7:00pm

#### Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

Prospective members welcome. RSVP to Jerry Lenamon, (254) 399-9450.

### Fold & Sticker

#### Thursday, 25 September

(at TGIT)

Help us assemble the newsletter! See Thank Goodness It's Thursday for directions.

### Potluck SIG & Games Night

#### Saturday, 27 September

6:00pm

#### Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Theme: German fare! Oktoberfest is just around the corner, and an evening's rehearsal seems in order. Please call ahead to RSVP and tell us what dish you'd like to bring so we can avoid duplicates.

Directions from Riverside Dr between IH35 & Congress Ave: the house is on the SE corner of the intersection of Travis Heights Blvd & Riverside Dr. There is a traffic light at the intersection. Park on Travis Heights & enter the house at the back door. Do not attempt to park on Riverside Dr.

## Mensan Realtor

Austin area. Free referrals to other areas.

### Shelley Sundermann

JB Goodwin Company

(512) 913-3108 (800) 900-9115

shelley@jbgoodwin.com

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LonestarRV V	2	3	4 TGIT	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 TGIT	12 Bridge Party	13 ExComm & Monthly Mtgs <b>Pool Party</b>
14	15 <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17 Waco Area Mensa	18 TGIT	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 TGIT <i>Fold &amp; Staple</i>	26	27 Games Night
28	29	30				

**2003**

**POSTMASTER:** Please send change of address to:

**ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE**

c/o American Mensa, Ltd.  
1229 Corporate Dr West  
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

**PERIODICAL**  
Postage Paid  
at **AUSTIN, TX**  
Permit #554-650