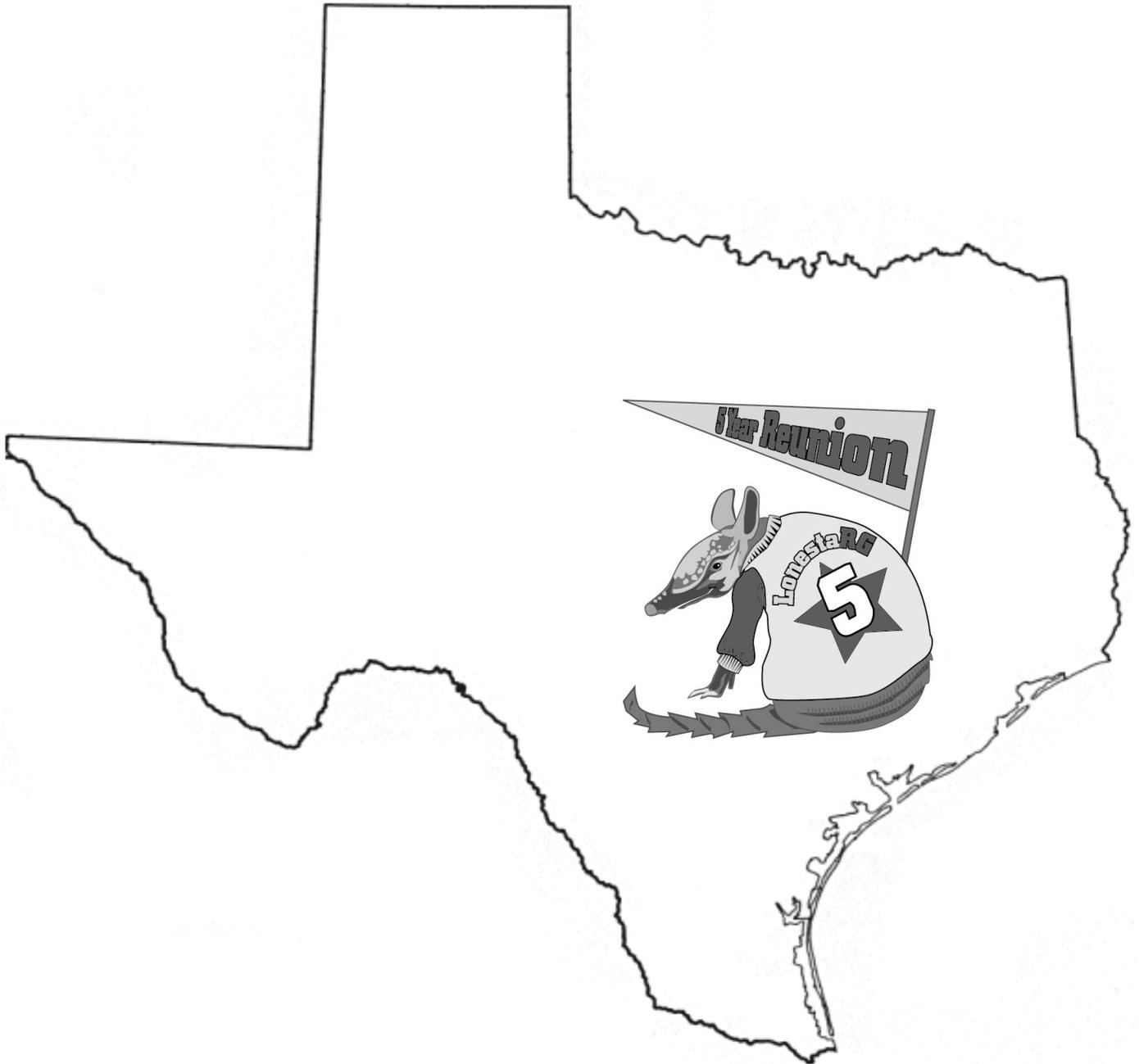


Armadillo Literary Gazette

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Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by John Neemidge, President

Labor Day

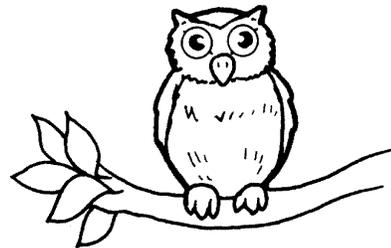
I'm writing this six weeks before LonestaRG V, our biggest event of the year, and the busiest weekend I'll have, I'm sure. I'm not going to spend my column trying to convince you to go — that'll be elsewhere in this issue (see "Come to LonestaRG!") — so I'll just say here that, if you're considering going, please read my other article. Instead of that, here, I'm going to give my usual roundup of what's going on in the group and how you can get involved.

Elections are coming! We really need volunteers for the Nominating and Election Committees; we also will most likely need candidates. The most recent roster shows Lonestar Mensa at 408 members, which means that (unless there's a totally unexpected decline in membership) we'll need three Members At Large, plus President, VP, and Treasurer. Some of the people in those offices are planning to run again, but others cannot due to term limits. If you're interested in the committees (which take only a few hours' effort) or running for office, please contact me or anyone else on the ExComm.

We're still looking for a 20's-30's/GenX group coordinator. A recent report from the National Office showed that Lonestar Mensa has the fifth highest percentage of GenX members of any chapter (about 27%), so I know you're out there. If a couple of you will volunteer to put a group together, we'll be glad to help with member contact information, ideas, etc.

As always, we'd love to see more people host events. You can host a party at your home — but you can just as well put a movie outing, dinner group, or whatever on the calendar. It's quick and easy and will make you some new friends! If you're interested, or want to talk about how it all works, please contact me and I'll be happy to help.

I hope to see many of you in a few weeks at LonestaRG V!



LonestaRG

LonestaRG 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
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Discussion room
- Games and contests
- Scholarship raffle
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!

A class act! We're bringing back favorite speakers from past LonestaRGs, and adding new speakers on all kinds of educational topics. Presentations on reading, writing, 'rithmetic, and other matters educational, and more — lots of high school hijinx to keep you busy. Relive your Prom memories — or finally attend the Prom you missed. Hospitality will be full-service as always — cafeteria food was never like this! Bring the whole family! Registration is only \$45 until June 2nd (children 7-14 half price, 6 and under are free). Send registrations to Janet & Mark Kres, POB 80635, Austin, TX 78708-0635; make checks payable to "Lonestar Mensa RG". For more information, including pictures from previous LonestaRG's, a printable registration form, and more see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>, or contact John Neemidge at 512-310-863.

My Best Chess Game

A Short Story

-by Brian Patrick Corcoran

My best chess game occurred on a bitter-cold and snowy January night in the huddled warmth of a smoke-filled bar on the South Side of Milwaukee. The year was 1987. It was played late on a Friday evening over the din of smashing pool balls, raucous barroom laughter and the clatter of beer pitchers colliding with tall glasses. This was a Mensa TGIF, held weekly in a blue-collar bar called “New Mike’s”, and whose owner granted us the entire back room for our festivities.

Now chess playing was not a common pass time at these events. On this occasion however, we had been honored by the presence of a Mensa member from Chicago who had driven up for the weekend to mingle with his Milwaukee counterparts. He was a Russian immigrant and looked the part : dark, stocky, brooding, mop-haired and bearded, one eyebrow that covered both eyes and a Slavic accent thicker than borscht. Humility not being among his virtues, he made no bones of the fact that he had been a rated chess master in Russia and had elevated his international ranking since his arrival in the States. Yes, he brought his own board and challenged all comers.

He played four or five members and summarily dispatched them all to the inflation of his insufferable ego, commanding a considerable audience of eight or ten Mensans who stood about the table, sipping beer while critiquing in whispers his every move. When the challenge was passed to me my attitude was that there could simply be no disgrace in being defeated in chess by a highly rated master, so why not! The board was set, I took my seat, and the game was afoot.

Now I had played many a good chess player but this jazbo was truly in a class of his own. Never before had I encountered so aggressive and intimidating a style of play. Totally defenseless I was against his unrelenting blitzkrieg. He swept across the board like Attila the Hun slaughtering everything of mine in his path. His moves were decisive and unhesitant while mine were pondering, calculated and tentative. He exuded this aura of controlled mastery and obviously enjoyed administering a pummeling to a rank amateur upstart such as myself. What was worse, the crowd of Mensa vultures hovering above me was now starting to take some pleasure in the haplessness of my plight. My sense of it was that they were merely waiting for this “master” to administer the inevitable coup de gras so they could descend upon me and pick with their beaks

what flesh might remain upon the carcass of my vanquished ego.

Within scant minutes of play I found myself bereft of several major pieces, not to mention half of my always-dispensable pawns. He had captured both of my knights, one of my bishops a castle and four of my pawns. For my part, I had somehow blundered into taking only two of his lowly foot soldiers. My King and the few scattered pieces that remained to me were defensively backed into a corner of the board hopelessly fending off the brutality of his assault. The game was laughably lopsided and I picked up on more than a few derisive snickers emanating from the hovering Mensa flock above and behind me. It was starting to get on my nerves.

But then, a curious circumstance began to unfold. So preoccupied was he with his naked aggression that the Russian had become totally oblivious to the appalling manner in which he had left his King unprotected on his own side of the board. All the focus of attention had been on my side where all the carnage was occurring. A good offense is not always the best defense.

Now I looked at the board more closely and a sterling opportunity presented itself. My Queen was poised in such a manner that she could sweep diagonally across the board and deposit herself directly in front of his King. In that position she would be protected by my one, remaining bishop. It was a check mate in the offing. The only impediment to this scheme was the presence of one of his knights which blocked the diagonal path. I needed to provide the Russian some incentive to move that knight in order to clear the path. If only that knight could be removed from the path, my next move would win the game!

I advanced one of my few remaining pawns up one square to offer it up as sacrificial bait hoping his well established pattern of aggression would induce him to swallow it whole. He bit! The pawn was captured by the obstructing knight and the path was now clear. My next move would win the game. But so focused on the inevitability of my demise was this crowd, and so intent were they on following the “master’s” juggernaut, that I was the only one who saw it coming.

My first impulse was to pound the table with joy and laugh out loud. It took an excruciating effort on my part to keep a straight face, look up at the Russian master and say in my most affected, timorous voice, “I need to use the restroom”. “Ya, ya, you go. I wait”, he said with a

toothy grin while he kicked back in his chair, grabbed at his glass of beer and guzzled it down greedily. As I rose from my seat a quick glance around enabled me to read the collective mind of the crowd of Mensa vultures surrounding me. It said, "Can't take the pressure, hey kid? Need a break? Don't worry, when you return we'll be right here to watch you die!"

I stiff-armed the swinging door of the men's room as I entered and immediately locked myself into a stall. I did not use the facility whatsoever except to pound my fist against the wall, kick it a few times and jump up and down with my face buried in my hands in absolute, unbridled elation at what I was about to do. It took several minutes of this unqualified reverie to thoroughly purge myself of it, but I knew that when I returned to that table, I needed to assume the despondent demeanor of a totally defeated man.

Head bowed, pace slow and deliberate, solemn and sullen, I crossed the room and took my seat. The burly Russian sat there like a ravenous bear, arms folded across his chest, grinning at me ferociously. The Mensa crowd, with the patience of true vultures, hovered closer, smelling blood, waiting for this executioner to administer his final blow. I pretended to assiduously study the board as though I had only now seen it for the very first time. I rubbed my chin, scratched my forehead once or twice, picked up my Queen, slid Her Majesty across the board, and, depositing Her Royal Highness directly in front of his King, uttered those oh-so-magic words, "Check Mate".

Silence prevailed as in unison a dozen heads descended upon the board to study this denouement in stunned amazement. Not a soul had seen it coming, least of all the Russian master. I casually rose from my chair and, without any identifiable facial expression whatsoever, walked to the bar and ordered a double shot of bourbon straight up in a brandy snifter. As I sipped away at the powerful concoction, my perch at the bar afforded me a panorama of the table. It was now a hornet's nest of finger-pointing, animated discussion and backward maneuvering of pieces to replay the final moments. No one had really noticed my departure, so involved were they in figuring out how such an outcome could have possibly evolved. As the buzz started to hit me, I could only think to myself, glowering in self-satisfaction as I was, how quickly a man's fortune can change when he knows how to play the game. Yeah, that was my best chess game.

How Rick & Glenda Got Married

-by Taz Waring, reporter extraordinaire

Mensans will take just about any excuse to throw a party, but for once, we actually had an excellent one. James Richard Crabtree, better known as Rick, and Glenda Jeannine Amber were married on Saturday, May 31.

The couple met at a Mensa campout at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreational Area (BLORA) last October. They returned to the place that brought them together for their wedding, choosing one of the many pavilions overlooking the lake.

About half of the guests at this happy event were Mensans. Therefore, it was not surprising that most guests missed the short ceremony, performed by Erich Adolph, but arrived just as the food was being served. Barbara Bartlett had not only provided decorations and had the area cleaned up by the park service, she also brought an absolutely delicious hand-decorated wedding cake.

The gathering was a place to make new friends and a chance for many people who use the LSM chat list to come together in person for a change. A karaoke machine provided amusement. Amy Fox and her fiancée, Raven, made their stunning debut in a duet from Moulin Rouge, while I attempted to keep my own warbling on-key to various songs.

Barbara's husband, Joe, won the prize for best toys by providing not only bubble guns that he and I used during the ceremony, but also an electric scooter that many Mensans took a turn on, riding up and down the hill.

We came, we ate, we played, we sang. We did not get t-shirts.



Hello Region 6

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

Ahhh... The Annual Gathering for 2003 is now history — leaving good memories of people, places, and things to enjoy for years to come. Groups and members of Region 6 were recipients of many awards and recognitions, ranging from an “Abbie” (Cat Sterrett Thorstenberg for her performance as a Proctor) to a PRP award for best theme issue in a newsletter (Arkansas Mensa, M-Ark — Duke Heath, Editor) to a pair of Owls for Central Oklahoma Mensa (newsletter — Mensokie, Angela Mabry, Editor and the COM website — Billy Mabry, Webmaster). If Lori Crews (Gulf Coast Mensa) played college sports the way she manages a website she’d be heavily recruited by the pros. Recognized for their artistic excellence were Nancy Park (Central Oklahoma Mensa), Bill Brewer and Sam Toscano (Gulf Coast Mensa), and Dr. Dot (Dr. Dorothy Funk- Werblo, also of GCM).

CultureQuest(r) results were also announced — Three teams in the region were in the top 20 of the nation. Congratulations to these teams for their truly impressive abilities: 10th place — Grit fer Brains — Lubbock Mensa; 13th place — Rollin’ on the River — Baton Rouge Mensa; 14th place — Brains on Bourbon — New Orleans Mensa

Please join me in applauding the accomplishments of these Mensans.

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6

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It’s not too late:

LonestaRG V — Five Year Reunion

Holiday Inn Northwest, Austin, TX

August 29-31, September 1, 2003

Hosted by Lonestar Mensa

Registration: \$55 to 8/4, and \$60 walk-in. Half off for children ages 7-14 (children 6 and under are free).

Contact:

Online - <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>

USPS - LonestaRG

PO Box 80635 Austin, TX 78708-0635

Watch this space for:

The Feast of Pleasures and Delights

Thanksgiving weekend

North Texas Mensa

Carol Hilson - Registrar 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

PO Box 77513 Baton Rouge, LA 70879-7513



Raising The Boom

-by Barbara Bartlett

Are there some phrases that are just overused? Last year it was “this dot com” and “that dot com”. Then it was “crash dot com”, and there were new phrases to learn.

Oh, there are still plenty of “dot coms” out there. Some time when you are bored, sit down and type something strange dot com into your favorite search engine and see what you find. For a real thrill, try something strange dot org! Or not—this could turn risque.

I’m sure that this is not a new trend. I seem to remember trendy phrases floating around before. Remember “Valley Girl” speak? Gag me with a spoon! Before that, there were—like—others. You know, like, different expressions that were popular.

I guess that they were always expressions of popular culture, but looking back at it now, it is hard to take “keep on trucking” seriously. Or “Hey, good buddy!” What about “staying alive” from the disco era? Is that what is going to make up the fond memories that our kids have of the language of their youth?

Well, I guess that “sex, drugs, and rock and roll” isn’t as good an anthem now that it once seemed, after all. And “groovy, man” doesn’t carry as much “heavy” meaning as it once did. At some point, “hep” had become “hip”. Bird dogs, hound dogs, and cool cats were part of every cool kids vocabulary.

Before that, there was the “big band” lingo. Where did it all start? I doubt if we’ll ever know. Where will it all end? Well, we probably won’t be here to find that out, either. Every generation has tried to set itself apart, to show how “cool” and different they were from everyone else. What we probably did was just show how creative (or silly!) we could be. Gotta get..... twenty-three skiddoo, kiddo!

July ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Janet Kres, Member-at-Large

Mensa Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, July 12, 2003

Attendees: John and Geri Neemidge, Janet and Mark Kres, Midge Kocen.

John called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. with a quorum present.

Geri reported that she had obtained an Austin city proclamation celebrating LonestaRG from Mayor Will Wynn. This will be displayed at the convention. Geri will also check with the Governor's web site.

Janet handed out a report on current registrants to Lonestar Mensa RG '03. There may be a large response from PayPal before the rates change on July 14. Janet also donated two cell phone covers for the RG.

Midge has moved on June 28 and is now working full time, so she will have the financial reports at the next meeting. There is currently \$3,048.92 in checking. Midge requested a report of registrants and amounts paid from Janet.

John reported that the club needs a scholarship chair by August 1st. He will send out emails.

Other items: On new activities, Janet suggested a genealogical meeting at the Texas State Library on Saturday, September 27. She will email Rachael for the August newsletter.

Midge stated the Georgetown Mensa group would like to place an ad in the Georgetown paper (cost \$15) to announce the games night. This could be a good way to recruit lapsed members and attract new ones.

John stated that there needs to be a Nominating Committee appointed, and a slate of officers developed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Janet Kres, Acting Recording Secretary



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Oh, Minnesota

-by Helen Siders

Since I was going to the AG in St. Paul anyway, and since I had a great time at the AG meetin' and greetin' and eatin' in the Hospitality Suite, why not stay another week touring northern Minnesota on my own?

After all, I am from Gemmell, Minnesota, population 40. So I drove around looking for my roots. I found myself in International Falls, the county seat of Koochiching county, hanging out in the court house looking at maps, asking questions about the land commonly known as the "Siders homestead" just outside Gemmell. Then I ended up at the Koochiching Museum. There was a man running the museum. Let's call him Mr. Olsen. Half the people in northern Minnesota are named Olsen.

By the way, real Minnesotans often respond to a question or a statement with "Yah" or "Yah?".

Mr. Olsen directed me down to the basement to sit at a card table and he dropped a plain manila folder in front of me titled Gemmell. Inside was a gold mine of newspaper articles about the early logging industry in Gemmell, including my father Chancey Siders. There was a photograph of a machine that mechanically loaded prepared logs on a logging truck using pulleys. I think it was the machine that my father invented. I got real excited about then, and Mr. Olsen was going "Yah", "Yah?".

Also inside the folder were handwritten stories from about 1940 and 1950 by people who probably were around when Gemmell was started in 1902. Some of the handwriting was better than other parts and you could tell they lacked access to a spell checker. But the stories were wonderful and as I read on it seemed like I could hear their voices coming into that museum basement. The longer I read the more their energies and strengths collected around me. Then it was time for the museum to close.

The next day I drove to Gemmell and tore up and down old logging roads but could not find the Siders homestead. So I searched the small town and found people whose relatives I know. Then I found Jerry, a young logger who took me right to the place! I sat on the banks of Tamarack creek and recognized the slope of the land. Such joy! All the buildings, even the well, were gone but the ambiance and memories remain.

Will I be returning to dip into the Minnesota energies? Yah.

I Want You... ... To Be At LonestaRG V!

-by John Neemidge

Many of you have read my exhortations about LonestaRG in these pages over the years, or on the email lists, or in person. Many of you have listened, attended a LonestaRG, and can personally attest to what a great time it is. This article isn't for you — it's for all of the rest of you who have resisted so far, thinking it's not for you, thinking it's too much money, too much time, you just don't know, maybe next year... etc. Please bear with me for the length of this article and let me try to talk you into giving LonestaRG V a try. I can virtually guarantee it won't be your last RG.

What is a Regional Gathering anyway, you might be asking. RGs are Mensa's conventions. They're a strange mix of speakers, games, contests, food, drink, dancing, mayhem, conversation, friendship, prizes, sleep deprivation, hot tubs, and more. They range from very small (50 people) to very large (600 or so people; 1500 at the Annual Gathering). They're almost uniformly addictive; many of us are dedicated RG-goers who attend several gatherings a year (I'm personally up to fifty-something gatherings).

Why are RG's so addictive? I think, more than anything else, it's about the people. Spending a weekend with dozens of Mensans is a great experience. There's always someone interesting to talk to about nearly anything. If you're out of topics, the speakers will happily provide you with new things to learn and discuss. If you're tired of serious talk, that's fine — most of us love a good joke, a silly story, talking about TV or books or movies or... whatever. And there are games to play, both in a game room and as organized program activities.

Many people's experience at RG's centers around the hospitality room. Hospitality is where you find the food and drink, and where people hang out enjoying them. What kind of food? Everything from snacks (chips, dip, chocolate, candy) to fresh-baked bread, to meals with a main dish, rice, salads, etc. To drink? We serve a dozen or so varieties of soda (probably more), several kinds of beer, a few varieties of wine, coffee, bottled water, juice, and whatever else we can think of. All of this is part of the RG — what you're paying for in registering — and it's open as close to 24 hours a day as we can find volunteers to staff it.

How about the other stuff? We'll have a dance — this year's theme being Five Year Reunion, we're making it a

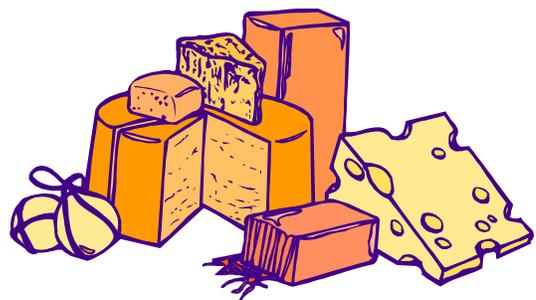
prom, so break out your formal wear. We'll have dance lessons to go with the dance. There'll be contests along the way, and other opportunities to win raffle tickets for the giveaway at the end of the RG (the prizes I mentioned). We'll also sell raffle tickets — proceeds to benefit the scholarship fund. The hot tubs? Mensans seem to love them — for relaxing after a long day, and for, yes, talking. Sleep deprivation? Who wants to go to sleep with everything that's going on?!?

I know for some of you the registration price seems like a lot, especially with the economy the way it is. The only way I can respond is to say that we're trying to give you the best value we can for your money — it's hard to find anything else that will feed and entertain you for an entire three-day weekend for the same price we're charging. I think we've done a great job of making it a real value over the years.

Some of you may feel that you don't like crowds, or that you're too shy, or you won't know anyone, won't meet anyone, will be out of place. Everyone's felt that way — I know, I've been there. Mensa crowds aren't like other crowds — promise! We try very hard to welcome newcomers to the group; everyone was new once, and we all want you to share in the fun. I went to my first few gatherings knowing virtually no one there, and I had a great time every time. If I can do it, you can too!

On the other hand, some of you may have family that you're worried about. We welcome you to bring your family, your friends, anyone you'd like to have there (yes, including children — Geri and I will have our two toddlers there, and there'll be a bunch of teenagers as well, plus other ages in between). I think they'll all have a great time too.

I know from reading member surveys that many of you joined Mensa to meet other people. LonestaRG is the best opportunity all year to do just that. I really hope you'll come out and join us — we're looking forward to seeing you there!



Walter's World

-by Walter Stewart

Home Improvement Hell

Home improvement hell is a new level to the underworld that was created to accommodate the evil demons that plague the do-it-yourself-ers. These evil beastlets infest home improvement projects of all varieties. They concentrate on difficult and irreversible things such as concrete and tile work, but from time to time will stoop to such things as drains and electrical fixtures. Unlike their gremlin predecessors, these imps focus on home improvements, but in a pinch will fall back on almost any custom machinery. While the projects of non-professionals are their usual purview, they have been known to turn their attentions to professional contractors, particularly ones that use materials and methods that are similar to the do-it-yourself-ers.

From time to time I will chronicle the worst of their depredations so that you can recognize and appreciate their handiwork.

In one recent incident, a homeowner's cat was possessed by one of these scurrilous beasties (of course, this may have been normal behavior - with cats it's difficult to be certain) and caused the offensive furball to urinate in a floor outlet. This outlet was devoid of any covering or seals and the outlet box was half full of sawdust and shavings deposited there during the house's construction. Thankfully cat urine does not burn easily, and although it arced, sparked, smoked, and glowed most impressively until the power was shut off, the urine soaked debris merely smoldered rather than burned. Had it ignited, my best guess is the house would have burned down. The odds of ignition were greatly increased by the fact that the breakers for the house were unlabeled and almost inaccessible. It took 20 minutes of experimentation to identify and turn off the circuit involved. (In a way, a full fire may have been preferable - smoldering cat urine is one of the worst smelling substances I have ever encountered.)

As if the mere act itself were not awful enough, the vile feline picked 0330 to do his dastardly deed - a particularly egregious example of Mr. Murphy's law in action.

During summer storms the ferocious little demons will occasionally join forces to tear shingles off of roofs, down fences, or damage trees. One homeowner decided to remove his afflicted tree, which was conveniently located next to his driveway. The tree, an old cottonwood, had

enough mass that when the upper part was cut off, it crashed down onto the driveway. Unbeknownst to the owner, the contractor who installed the driveway had been visited by the demons. The cement was only 3" thick and the smaller-than-usual reinforcement wire had rusted and decayed to the point of crumbling. The huge tree smashed the driveway slab into several pieces. It had to be cut, the offending section jack-hammered out, formed, reinforced and repoured!

Another infestation reported to me involved the main water line into a house. These lines come from the street, through an access hole that contains the meter and then through a section of 6" pvc pipe which acts as an access point for the 'main' house valve. This is a wee bit redundant as another valve is integral to the meter. In this instance, an individual drove a riding mower over the 6" pipe section, thus driving it further into the ground and cracking the pvc pipe leading from the meter to the house. The crack released about 50 gallons per minute, and several days later the homeowner realized he had a lake forming in his front yard. Since the break occurred between the meter and the house, the water loss and required repairs were the homeowner's responsibility!

Unfortunately, plumbing problems are not limited to the yard. A homeowner hired a contractor to install tile in his bathroom. Rather than removing and replacing the baseboard, the installers used a roto-zip tool to undercut the baseboard to lay the tile. Unbeknownst to them, the water supply pipe to the toilet was just beneath the drywall (as opposed to being in the center of the wall stud). They cut the water pipe off 3/8" above the floor. A rather large amount of water gushed into the space in the wall, and other places it is normally not supposed to go. The repairs involved cutting out a 12"x 16" piece of drywall, cutting out a chunk of the wall's sill, and chiseling out an inch of concrete from around the pipe so a copper fitting could be soldered on to the pipe to plug the leak. The homeowner spent \$440 and 6 hours without water while waiting for the plumber to show up.

That's all for this month. If you have any really good home improvement nightmare stories I'd love to hear them. Email them to me at joatfixer@yahoo.com.



Happy Birthday!

- 1 Candido Lopez
Kim Thoene Mena
William J Worthington IV
- 3 Betty L Wolverton
- 7 Jonathan P Grabert
Jason Rodriguez
- 8 Ms Chrissi Brown
Mr Martyn John Hitchcock
Jason Wallace
- 9 Allen E Boyles
Jerry Dike
- 10 Mr Brian Patrick Corcoran
- 12 Elyn Petrovic
- 13 Leslie Bacon
Mr James T Nicholopoulos Jr
Mr James H Schorr
- 16 Manu J Patel
- 17 Cadet Anthony C Rovano
Charity Ruth Smith
Gilbert Wildin
- 20 Mr James B Robinson
- 21 Jeffrey Sanders
- 22 Paul Robinson Wilson
- 23 Matthew C Lawrence
- 24 Paula Blessing Beard
- 25 Wayne Johnnie
Keith Wilson Loring
- 27 Mr John R Strohm
- 28 Harry N Howell Sr
Ms Lucille S Russell
W Randall Strahan Jr
Donna Woodwell
- 29 Robert D Miller
- 30 Helen Ruth Siders
Harinath Thummalappalli
- 31 Stacey Marie Pieters



Georgetown Games Night

The Georgetown Mensans are hosting a monthly games night at Betty Dougherty's home in Sun City on August 9. Bring a food item to share and BYOB. Drinking in allowed, but Betty asks that it be kept in moderation. Smoking (tobacco) outside on the back porch. All Mensa members and their guests are welcome to enjoy the challenges and good company. No kids or pets please. We hope to see some of our Temple and Waco brethren who might otherwise find Austin to be a bit far to travel. Also, please bring a card table and chairs if you have them. And don't forget your favorite game!!! The host has Scrabble, Upwords, Boggle, Perquackey, backgammon, and decks of cards. Hope to see you there. Festivities start at 7ish or so and go to about 11.

From Austin, go north on I-35 to exit 261A. Stay on access road to Williams Drive. Turn left on Williams Drive (FM 2338) and proceed to Sun City (about 6 miles). You'll see some blue signs along the way saying "Sun City." (From Waco going south, I think it's exit 262, but can't swear to it.) At the light, turn right onto Del Webb Blvd. and go about 1 1/2 miles. (Watch your speed and for golf carts.) Where the road flattens out, you'll cross a bridge (there's a blinking light right before the bridge), then turn right on Whispering Wind. The 2nd left, opposite a "Speed Limit 30" sign, is Dan Moody. Turn left on Dan Moody and wind up and around to Sunflower at the top of the hill. Turn right on Sunflower and go to the 3rd house on your right - #129 is on the garage. The driveway can probably hold 2-4 cars, depending on their size. Carpooling as much as possible would help with any parking problems. The streets are Georgetown public streets, so there's parking on the street; just don't block anyone's drive. The usual rules of courtesy.

Howdy To!

-submitted by Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair

* Jane Thompson

Jane is not new to Mensa, just new to our group. She recently moved to the Austin area but she was a member of North Texas Mensa for 19 years. Jane is single and she lives in Cedar Park with her two cats, Siamese mixes named Charlie and Camilla. Jane is a semi-retired writer who has been published in the Mensa Bulletin as well as local newsletters. Jane already knows that she shares a name with one of our local members. She is looking forward to meeting the other Jane Thompson as well as all the other members of the Lonestar group!

What's Happening in August

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 38th and 41st Streets. Central Market is the anchor store. Central Market Café is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

ExComm Meeting

Saturday, 9 August

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, 9 August

11:00am-1:00pm

Austin Public Library

University Hills Branch

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Technology is the means to include 55 million Americans with disabilities in greater opportunity than ever before possible - IF technology applications are built to accommodate their needs. Join Rob Sartin, Technology Specialist for the national nonprofit Knowbility, to learn more about how and why to ensure that technology design includes this large and growing segment of the population. Knowbility was founded in Austin Texas in 1999 to address this critical issue. Knowbility programs have won national acclaim for innovation and excellence from the Peter F. Drucker Foundation, the Department of Labor, and the White House, among others. Rob will talk about the issues, the emerging laws and best practices, how people with disabilities use technology, and how to ensure that your IT department has the tools they need to reach this large and lucrative market. More information at www.knowbility.org

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.

Georgetown Games Night

Saturday, 9 August

7:00pm

Betty Dougherty's House

129 Sunflower St. Georgetown

(512) 864-1582

bettydou2@juno.com

See page 10 for details and directions.

Bridge in Austin (Cedar Park)!

Friday, 15 August

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.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, 20 August

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, 21 August

(at TGIT)

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, 23 August

6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Theme: *TBA - contact Kelly for details*

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.

LonestaRG V

Friday 29 August - Monday 1 September

Holiday Inn Northwest

8901 Business Park Dr, Austin

(512) 343-0888

See page 8 for more details, or check out www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm

Coming Up in September

Genealogy Get-Together

Saturday, 27 September

9:30am-Noon

Janet Kres

(512) 836-5773

Are you interested in mapping out your family tree? Would you like some pointers from the old hands? Do you know how the State Archives can help you? Do you have a story to tell about your search or that black sheep on in your father's uncle's grandmother-in-law's family? Come on down!

Mensan Realtor

Austin area. Free referrals to other areas.

Shelley Sundermann

JB Goodwin Company

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

shelley@jbgoodwin.com

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 ^x
3	4	5	6	7 TGIT	8	9 ExComm Monthly Meet G'town Games
10	11	12	13	14 TGIT	15 Bridge Night <i>Dillo Deadline</i>	16
17	18	19	20 Waco Area Mensa	21 TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	22	23 Games Night
24	25	26	27	28 TGIT	29 LonestarRG V	30 LonestarRG V
31 LonestarRG V						

2003

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