

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 6

June 2006



The Red Wall Bridge, as seen from the Supai Tunnel on North Kaibab Trail, Grand Canyon -Rachael Stewart 2005

La CARTE

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Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

Program Coordinator *

Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

Gifted Children's Coordinator *

Possible volunteer for this position found, details to come...

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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.

From the President

-by Janet Kres, LSM President

We had a great time at the May meeting – Dr. Robert Abzug presented a fascinating program. And Dr. Abzug was actually with a group of folks who had read some of the works of Rollo May. We will certainly invite him back to give another program. And to continue with good news concerning speakers – Mr. Michael Osborne (our speaker in April) will be returning to Lonestar Mensa on February 13, 2007 to give us an update on the plug-in hybrids program.

There was a significant decrease in the number of labels this month – because some of our members have not renewed. Please encourage your Mensa friends to renew! We have fun things happening in Mensa, and they are much more fun when you are there!

Speaking of fun things – I'm sure we will be hearing from our members who attended the Houston RG what a great time that was. Perhaps a Lonestar Mensa member who attended the Houston RG would like to write an article for the Armadillo.

Looking forward to seeing you at future events –

Janet

Corner(Ed)!

-from Rachael Stewart, Editor



A short treatise on the force of habit:

What's black and white and taking an oath of loyalty?

A nun-citizen.

What is black and white and capitalized?

A proper nun.

What's black and white and floating in bliss?

Cloud nun.

What's black and white and evading a blockade?

A nun-shall-pass.

What's black and white and eaten at midday?

A nun-cheon.

What's black and white and 10,000 years dead?

A Cro-Mag-nun.

R U Cre8ive?



LonestarRG

- Speakers on creativity in its many forms
- Costume dance
- Games & Contests
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Ray's Famous Hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Prizes
- And much more!

R U Cre8ive? Show your creative side at LonestarRG VIII, which will be held in Austin over Labor Day Weekend, September 1-4, 2006. Bring the whole family and get cre8ive!

Registration is only \$45 until June 2, and \$50 until July 14. Children 7-14 are half price, 6 and under are free. Send registrations to John Neemidge, Registrar, LonestarRG VIII, 1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX, 78681-7126 (neemidge@usa.net, 512-310-7863). To register online via PayPal, or for program information and times, hotel information, pictures from last year's RG, and more, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>.

We hope to be announcing our RG hotel in the near future. When we do we'll let you know the location, room rates, reservation information ,etc.

Region 6 RVC Report

-by Ray O'Connor, RVC Region 6

The month of June is two for one Testing month. American Mensa will offer a buy one get one free Admissions Testing in June. (The fee is usually \$30 each.) This will be a great time to encourage friends and family members to join Mensa. For more information about this offer, candidates may visit the American Mensa Web site www.us.mensa.org or email me, RVC6@us.mensa.org.

Customer Disservice! I will have a new email address in June. My previous internet carrier, Comcast, decided to institute a top secret email security procedure. My ability to send email was disabled for a period of at least two days as punishment for sending too many emails. I was unable to discover how many emails were permitted as the security folks seem to have failed to tell the customer service folks what limit was being enforced. After seven extremely frustrating phone calls, I was given the security group's phone number to call and finally discover what my provider was willing to deliver for my monthly fee. Unfortunately what I received was another recording. I left a message but the return call was at least a day later. When the Comcast security group finally called they missed me and left a message telling me there was nothing wrong with my service, as my computer was turned off at the time thus of course email would not work.

I have long strongly advocated that local group officers communicate with their members using email. I still feel that email is the most cost efficient method of communicating with most of our membership. However, if you have Comcast as your provider be aware that there is a secret limit on how many email addressees to whom you may send an email. I have no idea how many email recipients will cause Comcast to disable your send capability. If you plan to use email for communication to more than a very few friends, I recommend you find an Internet carrier that will support email better than my experience with Comcast.



Gatherings Calendar:

The World Gathering
Aug 8 to Aug 13, 2006

The Coronado Springs, Disney World, FL
Registration: wg06.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Registration

Registration Rates: April 1, 2006 to July 31, 2006 Member \$100, nonmember \$110, Onsite registration: \$120
Put on your mouse ears and come join Mensans from around the world. The resort is beautiful. Disney and Mensa is definitely a winning combination.

Colloquium 2006 "Revolution in Cosmology".
The Marriott Hotel in Albany New York, October 6-8.
You can register for the event online at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org



June Monthly Meeting

Speaker:

Gunjan Gupta is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at UT Austin. His main research area is Machine Learning, AI and Data Mining. Between his Masters and PhD degrees over the last 11 years, he has also worked in the industry for over 7 years in US, S. Korea and India, developing models and machine learning software for various companies including Amazon.com, Standard & Poors and i2 Technologies. His professional website is at <http://hercules.ece.utexas.edu/~gunjan/>

Gunjan has been deeply interested in space exploration and the eventual expansion of humans to Mars and beyond since he was a child. He has been associated with the Mars Society since 1998, and with the Austin chapter since 2001. He led the New Mexico chapter in 2002-2003 and currently maintains the website for the Austin chapter. He also maintains a personal blog on the future of humanity on Earth and beyond at <http://beyondearth.blogspot.com/>

Topic:

Mars: the foundation for an interplanetary civilization

Mars is proving itself to be a fortuitous stepping stone for humanity because of its proximity to Earth, an almost habitable current environment, and strong evidence of a habitable past, Without such a Mars in our backyard, humanity might never become a truly interplanetary

civilization, or at the very least, the expected delivery in the next few decades from our Earthly womb would get delayed by at least a few centuries. In the past decade, a series of increasingly sophisticated robotic probes have led to a quantum leap in our knowledge and understanding of Earth, Mars, and other planetary bodies in our Solar System. This has heightened the sense of how special and Earth-like Mars is, and the opportunity it provides. At the same time, the World technology, economy and our motivations for moving beyond Earth has rapidly grown to the level needed to create a self-sustaining and growing human colony on Mars.

I will discuss the past, present and future robotic missions to Mars, and some of the discoveries so far. I will also talk about NASA's current plans for a sustainable human presence on Mars, and the critical role that the Mars Society has been playing in these efforts. Despite these plans, we cannot be complacent any more: what role NASA or even USA will play in delivering humanity into an interplanetary species is now up for the grabs. I will wrap up with a discussion on the rapid, tectonic shifts happening around the World - in politics, economy and in technology, and how these shifts are likely to greatly increase the number of players on Mars, dramatically shift the role of the current players, and hasten the date the first colonists set foot on Mars.



May ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by John Neemidge

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Margaret Wofford, Helen Siders, Michael Tolbert, Members At Large

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Happy News: Gifted Children Coordinator Michelle Vaughan. Testing room in Round Rock.

Speakers: Energy Conversation in August. Trying for sleep

disorders, teachers, etc for Sep/Oct. Wifi is a possible topic. Mars Society in June.

Treasurer: Group continues to be in good financial position. Received ad revenue from newsletter. Don checked AML Treasurer's Handbook on capitalizing RG t-shirts. Although we could do that, it is probably not a good idea since they lose value quickly after the RG they were printed for. It should be better to write them off as an RG expense and count them as revenue when they are sold. The ExComm approved the expense approach. Discussed creating a list of group assets of value. Margaret proposed creating the list as an ASIE. Don asked that the list be sent to Don.

Discussion of breaking out treasurer's report in projects (newsletter, testing, RG, etc) with each having expense and revenue. National recommends this but does not require it. General feeling of ExComm is that this is valuable only for large optional projects (such as the RG), but not for newsletter and testing.

March minutes omission: The 2006 budget was discussed and approved at the March ExComm meeting.

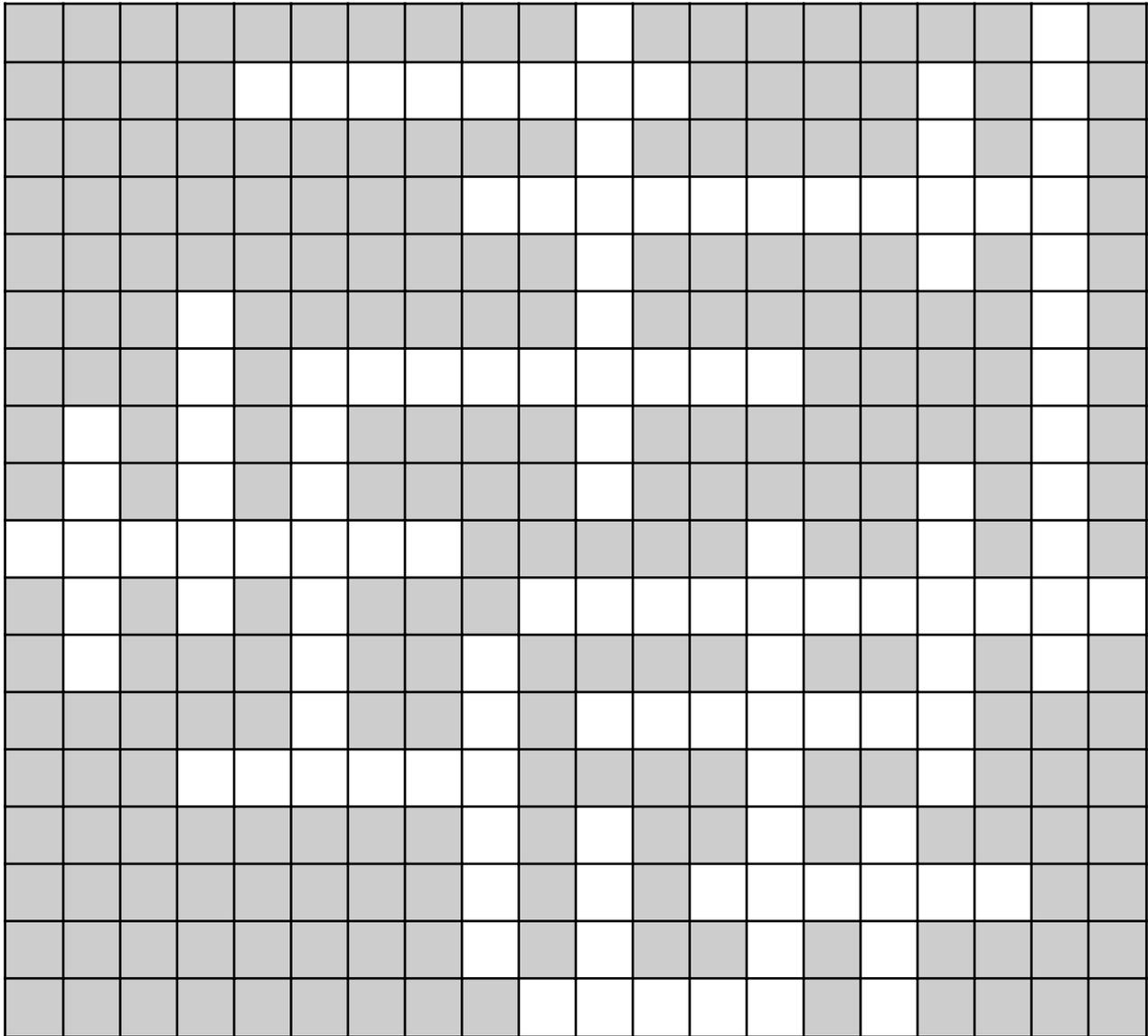
RG report: John discussed the hotel situation and search. Howard Johnson is probably the leading candidate at this time.

Circulation report. AML is no longer going to do the full newsletter exchange. Groups can request the extra labels. We will not get reimbursed if we participate. However they will distribute a PDF copy of the newsletter for the full exchange. Preference of the ExComm is to not do the full exchange. Rachael and QuickPrint are arguing about which format to use in sending the newsletter to the printer. QuickPrint seems unable to tell Rachael how to format the newsletter to meet their standards. Helen will check to see if the newsletter can be printed at the north location and delivered to Helen at the south location.

General item: Don's classes are over. The ExComm will reconsider meeting time and location.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:05.





INSTRUCTIONS: Unscramble each word and fit it into the puzzle.

yjaplo
 snuolc
 tcrriapveae
 pnoistro
 erte
 mdieamnpuon
 hkcec
 rkaten
 maal
 yrnoer
 eelhtopn

snraplto
 meittyer
 sftoerhgi
 gldee
 nfla
 senoottnias
 worcda
 gpekieens
 reewtte

Clues

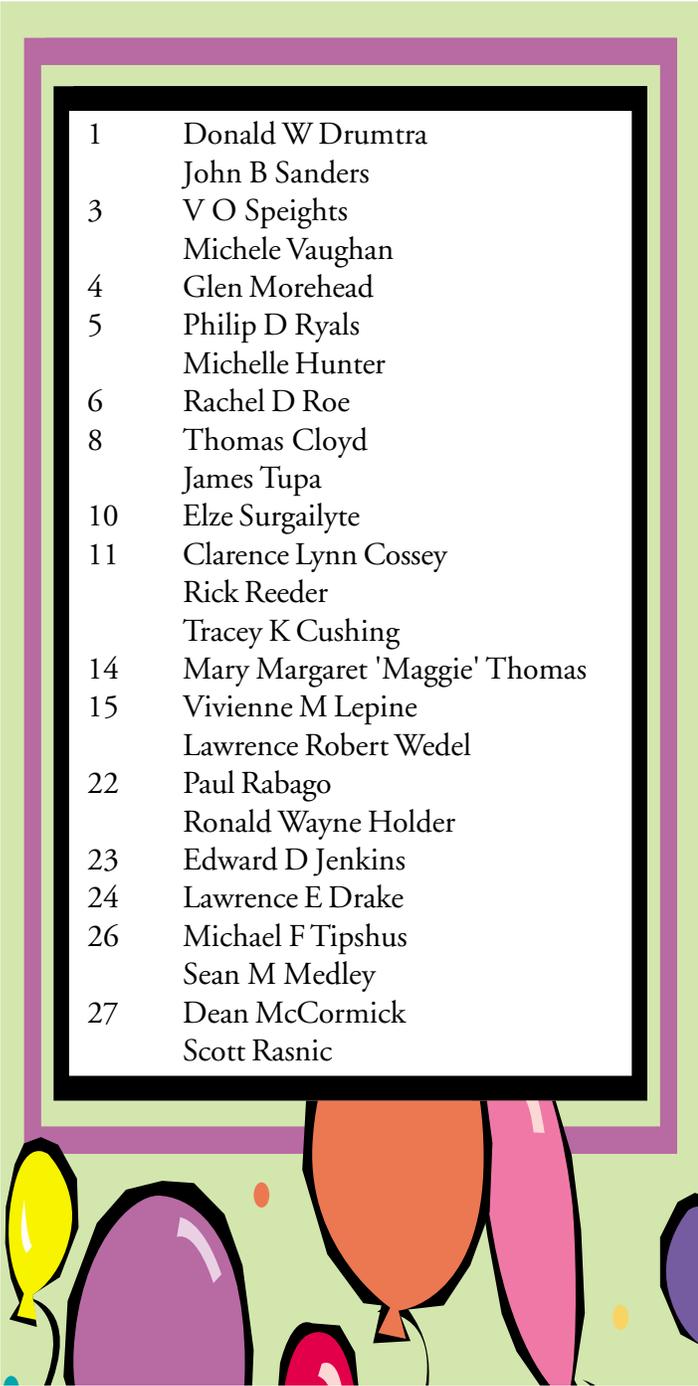
vision	belly shield
eye-catching	lie
pudding	hairy mop
possible oil slick source	gall
+ particle	much ado
tab	speaker
like a mule	roman magistrate
ringer	yellow
old car	flowerpot place
chase into a corner	
monk	

Welcome New Members!

Scott Rasnic
Jeffrey Esquivel
Vignesh Prakash
Chad E. Yates

Welcome Back, Renewing Members!

Shannon Jones
Peggy Bills
Kerry Lynn Fisher
William Richard Jones
Fred Van Smith

- 
- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Donald W Drumtra
John B Sanders |
| 3 | V O Speights
Michele Vaughan |
| 4 | Glen Morehead |
| 5 | Philip D Ryals
Michelle Hunter |
| 6 | Rachel D Roe |
| 8 | Thomas Cloyd
James Tupa |
| 10 | Elze Surgailyte |
| 11 | Clarence Lynn Cossey
Rick Reeder
Tracey K Cushing |
| 14 | Mary Margaret 'Maggie' Thomas |
| 15 | Vivienne M Lepine
Lawrence Robert Wedel |
| 22 | Paul Rabago
Ronald Wayne Holder |
| 23 | Edward D Jenkins |
| 24 | Lawrence E Drake |
| 26 | Michael F Tipshus
Sean M Medley |
| 27 | Dean McCormick
Scott Rasnic |

What's Happening in June?

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

Wednesday, June 7

6:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact Janet Kres at (512) 836-5773 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 13

7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see the announcement on page 4 for details.

Games Night

Saturday, June 10

7:00-10:00pm

Janet and Mark Kres' House

11708 Prairie Hen Ln, Austin (512) 836-5773

Bring munchies and/or your favorite game. BYOB.

Pizza for Thought -- Malleable Colloqy

Friday, June 16

5:00-7:00pm

Mr. Gatti's at MLK & Guadalupe, Austin

Host: Don Jarvis 926-6391, djarvis2@austin.rr.com

Is the Flex Plan a workable fix for immigration? Synopsis: 1) Make the Minutemen an official arm of government staffed by retired people, basic training, minimal stipend, variable enlistment, portable military quarters, field rations, threaded with border patrols, national guard and regular military, supported by sensors, drones and other electronic surveillance equipment. 2) Augment fence system on a limited and sporadic basis. 3) Apprehend illegal aliens and confine them in a facility at an isolated point on the border where they can be processed and deported. 4) Sanction employers of illegal aliens. 5) Adjust immigration process.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, June 22

6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  TGIT	2	3
4	5	6	7 ExComm	8  TGIT	9	10 Games Night
11	12	13  Monthly Meeting	14	15  <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16 Pizza Colloquium	17
18	19	20	21	22  <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29  TGIT	30	

2006