

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 8

August 2006



Colorado River near Lee's Ferry, Arizona

-photo by Rachael Stewart 2005

La CARTE

Page 3 *From the President* Janet Kres, President
New Proctor
RG Notice
Corner(Ed)! Rachael Stewart

Page 4 Welcome New Members
Member News
Birthdays

Page 5 Scholarship Judging
Essay by Melanie Daniel

Page 6 Essay by Ashley Dobravolsky
Essay by Katherine Stolze

Page 8 Treasurer's Report

Page 9 Puzzle

Page 10 August Meeting Info
Sewing Circle
New Member Party
Poker

Page 11 Events Schedule

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Bryan-College Station Area Coordinator

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...

Ombudsman/Arbiter *

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

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

* -- Appointed position (non-voting)

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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.

From the President

-by Janet Kres, LSM President

Well, it was indeed an exciting time at our July monthly meeting – when I was informed that Lonestar Mensa would not be meeting at that library in August. YIPES!! That took some scurrying around – and the result is that we do have a delightful meeting space for our August meeting – it is the Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive (off Far West Blvd.) I have been filling out forms, to reserve a library meeting room – on various days. I hope we can keep the second Tuesday -- but we won't know which library room is reserved for us until the week of July 31st.

There will be a New Members' Party in August – the first hour of the party will be for the new members, the ExComm and chairmen– to answer all questions! Come on, new members! This will be a fun get together! We have a lot of new members this year, thanks to our proctors. After 2:00 p.m. other Lonestar members will arrive to meet and greet.

I hope you are enjoying the programs. The June program on Mars really was popular – and the crowd tested the limits of the library air conditioning system. In July, we were prepared with two fans we brought from home, and the July crowd was much more comfortable.

I look forward to seeing you at future gatherings.



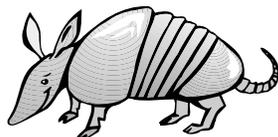
Welcome New Proctor Michael Tolbert!

On July 11, 2006, Michael Tolbert was confirmed in his appointment as a proctor for American Mensa. This is a key volunteer position for Mensa – the proctor is often the first Mensa contact a prospect has with our organization.

Michael has also been offering his business office conference room as a testing site.

Thank you, Michael!

R U Cre8ive?



LonestarRG

- Speakers on creativity in its many forms: Architecture, Music, Art, Homebrew, Cinema, Fashion, more
- Costume dance
- Games & Contests
- 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 \$55 until August 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>.

Our RG hotel is the Howard Johnson Plaza, located at the intersection of IH-35 and US-183 in Austin. Our room rate is \$75/night S/D (+\$8 for third or fourth adult). The room rate includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations call 1-866-661-6611; our group code is LSM.

Welcome New Members

Cory Barnett
Elizabeth Keene
Sarah McCormick

Welcome Back, Members

Wes Davenport
Susanna English
Donald Hayes
Christopher Herring
Paula Holt
Michael Legatt
Joseph McMillen
Patrick Walden
Ryan Walden



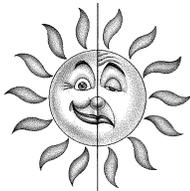
Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Jerome Casler
Hugo Gonzalez
August Murray
Susan Muschett



Member News

Hugh Brown has written a book, *Your Mythic Life*, and published it on the internet. You can find it at churchwithnowalls.us. "The book is about understanding human nature, why we are the way we are, and how to use that understanding to fix your life".



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August Birthdays

- 1 Marion Alpern
William J Worthington IV
- 3 Eugene LaMar Guyon Jr
Betty L Wolverton
- 8 Martyn John Hitchcock
Rudy S Apodaca
- 9 Allen E Boyles
Jerry Dike
- 10 Brian M Senn
Kenneth Florence
James Koriath
- 13 James T Nicholopoulos Jr
Fred Van Smith
- 14 Keith R Babola
- 20 James B Robinson
Michael E Legatt
- 21 Laura Helen Christie
- 22 Michael Allen Farrar
- 23 Matthew C Lawrence
Kelly L Munguia
- 24 Paula Blessing Beard
- 25 Keith Wilson Loring
Wayne Johnnie
Scott Hauptmann
- 27 John R Strohm
- 28 Lucille S Russell
W Randall Strahan Jr
Patrick Stallings
Steve Young
Donna Woodwell
- 29 Benjamin 'Clint' F Wheeler II
- 30 Helen Ruth Siders
Don Menzies



Judges' Choice

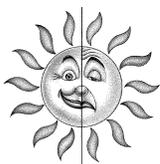
-from Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chair

The Mensa scholarship contest is the quintessential Mensa community service program; what better or more appropriate project could Mensa undertake? While having the honor of holding the Scholarship Chair position this past year, I gained a lot of respect for both the Mensa aspects of the contest and the entrants. Students today have wonderful, altruistic, exciting aspirations!

This year, the contest asked entrants to submit "...an essay of no more than 550 words that describes the applicant's career, vocational, or academic goals. The contest entry form stated the following: "judging will emphasize a goal statement that includes specific information on experience or steps taken toward the goal, persuasiveness (e.g., how your past achievements/experiences and your future planning increase the probability of reaching your goal), why you think that you will succeed, and also grammar, spelling, and punctuation."

Lonestar Mensa is proud of this year's winners! Katherine Stoltze, of Dripping Springs, won our local scholarship. Katherine plans to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design, in Georgia. Melanie Daniel, from Austin, won the Region 6 Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship. Melanie will attend the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. Ashley Dobravolsky, of Cedar Park, won the Region 6 Kuhnel Scholarship. She plans to continue her dance studies in addition to studying pedagogy at Texas Christian University.

Here are the winning contest entries from our group, in whatever order our esteemed newsletter editor chooses:



Region 6 Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship Winner – Melanie Daniel

What do you want to be?" This common conversational question never fails to put me off guard and make me start to sweat. Should I give the short answer and just say 'nurse practitioner'? Should I give the long answer and start explaining how I first became inspired with my future career? Should I try to avoid the question by asking about the weather? How do I start explaining to a normal person that

I am considering a life in poverty as a medical volunteer in Latin America?

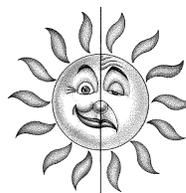
I can still remember when this mission dream began. It all started while I was entering eighth grade and my dad took me on a mission trip to Mexico. I remember my first steps out into the impoverished, dusty colonia, and I can still see the eyes of a six day old baby girl that was already hungry without enough milk. I can still feel the car's vibrations as I explained to my dad, on the trip home, that I felt a calling to permanently help people in that kind of poverty.

Since returning home from that trip five years ago, I have involved myself with a wide variety of service activities. My life has been defined by service. I have gone out to feed our city's homeless, I have helped to lead dozens of youth retreats, and was among the first to sign up when our church was looking for volunteers to help with the Hurricane Katrina outreach. In addition to diving into these service activities, I have devoted my spare nights to babysitting, putting away every penny for more and longer service trips into Latin America and around the world.

It was a year after my first experience at the colonias that I began to explore the challenges and rewards of combining service work with medical outreach. I raised money to join a Christian medical mission for Guatemala. There I found myself helping indigenous people in remote villages to wear reading glasses for the first time. I embraced the challenge of the conditions and relished in the rewards of affecting lives one at a time. Afterwards I raised money to travel to Mexico, Nicaragua and India on other types of medical outreach. Though often grueling, the experiences clarified for me a deep calling to pursue a greater nursing education.

Now, my heart swells and I long to pursue medical service as never before. In my heart, my dream has been as gold tested in fire, purer and more beautiful than it was first conceived. I am ready to make a difference with my life and hope to help those unable to afford medical attention. I have set out on a journey that I am committed to pursue.

Who am I? What do I want to be? I am a student who dreams of being a medical volunteer that serves the poor. Long or short, that is my passionate answer.

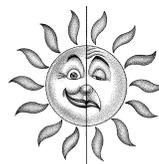


**Region 6 Kuhnel Kuhnel Scholarship Winner –
Ashley Dobravolsky**

When I think of the things I would like to accomplish in my future career in dance, the first thing that comes to mind is inspiration. My main goal is to become a ballet teacher and pass on my love of dance to the younger generations, inspiring them as my past teachers have so successfully done for me. I do not however wish to give up performing, as the thrill of performance is one of the main reasons I have dedicated myself to ballet for so many years. I am not close-mindedly set on one particular professional ballet company, but I would rather join a company where I feel I can develop most both artistically and technically. If that is a relatively unknown local company or a prestigious big city company I do not care. I just want to dance! I see myself dancing during the day and teaching at night, with the help of a Dance Major (ballet pedagogy emphasis). Hopefully my business minor will enable me to perhaps open my own dance studio someday, when I am past the age of performance.

I have taken dance classes since the age of three, and I spent the last two summers at the Virginia School of the Arts Summer Ballet Intensive for three and five weeks, dancing over thirty hours each week. During the year I take technique classes (six ballet, one modern, and one jazz) for thirteen hours every week, and I am constantly working to improve my artistic expression. I'm in a pre-professional youth dance company, and an apprentice in the affiliated professional company, which requires extra rehearsals on weekends. Every step and every class is a challenge, and I pride myself on my complete devotion to the art of dance. I'm also happy to say that I found a balance between dance and my other passion-academics. The multitude of AP and honors courses taken throughout my high school career, and the high A's I received in each one prove that I am ready to embark on, and handle, the adventure of college. As the Vice President of the National Honor Society and Secretary of Key Club, I've also (miraculously) found time to tend to my officer duties. Sacrifices have been made, yes, but I know that parties and trips to the mall will not increase my chances of becoming a teacher, let alone a professional ballet dancer. I keep my friends close, and although we're all busy students we find time to incorporate fun into our schedules. We meet weekly to help each other with our calculus homework, and one of us brings a treat to eat each week. Laughing and eating while differentiating functions is actually pretty fun. It took time to balance school, dance and friends, but I've finally found it, and it will stay with me throughout my life. The art of ballet has given me

extreme dedication and perseverance, that I now apply to everything I do. I can see that hard work pays off, as does advice and inspiration from teachers. Someday I will become one of those teachers, ready to give everything she has to her students, to make them see how utterly amazing ballet really is.



**Lonestar Mensa's Local Scholarship Winner –
Katherine Stoltze**

PIXELS AND CELL FRAMES AND MESHES, OH MY!

The air is thick with the perfume of feverish anticipation and popcorn as the red carpet is rolled out on the night of the premiere. Deep in the theatre, people muscle their way through the packed aisles, hunkering down in their seats to the first showing of the most anticipated premiere in the last nine centuries. Maybe ten. There is an immediate, electric hush as the lights dim. The audience is rapt as the feature begins, so far on the edge of their seats that a few of the more clumsy spectators actually topple to the floor just as the story reaches its crescendo. Although none of the main characters are real, per se, they have been rendered with such attention to detail that you might think that they were. Look at that hair! Those perfect, perfect nostrils! The cuticles bring a tear to the eye! There's not a dry eye in the house at the finale, everybody relishing the memory of the most convincing and beautiful computer animation ever. "Spectacular." State the critics, "Nay, awe inspiring!"

And I am in charge of it.

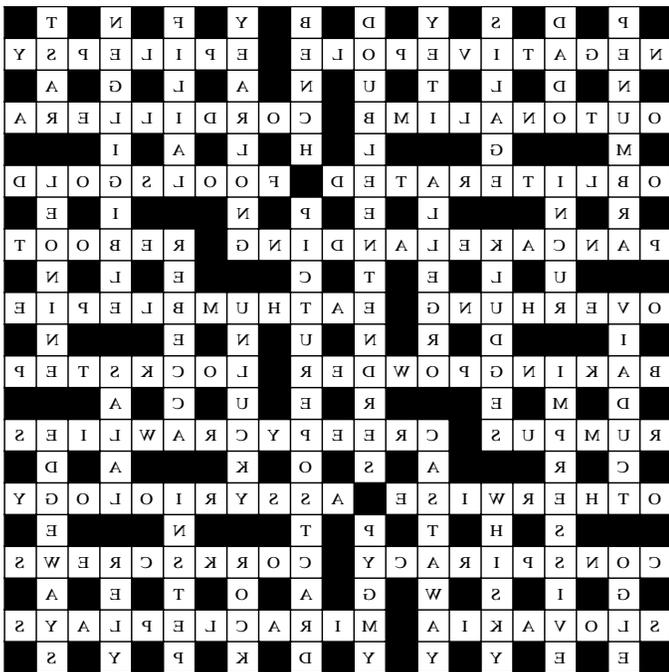
See, I've wanted to be an animator since exactly seventh grade. I devoured animated movies, all of which were intended for target groups much younger than myself. I took in every little detail—the way the muscles worked together for motions, the way every movement was timed, how clothing moved in relation to bodies.

I also became involved in the art program at my school. I threw myself into any media I could get my hands on. I practiced realism whenever I could, although cartooning remained my one true love. I created characters and drew them over and over again in different poses, interacting with one another. Thus I began to create comics, which I hoped would prepare me for animation. My love for art continued into high school, where I joined the Pre-AP group, later being allowed to skip a class and join the Advanced Placement

class a year early.

Over my freshman summer, I attended a camp, TAG, for gifted students. I took a class in animation, in which I learned how to commandeer Flash, a widely used animation program. I grappled with it for a couple of weeks, turning out such masterpieces as “Ken the Blob Plays Guitar”. At the end of the program, I was fairly proficient. Later on through high school I would reach a state level art competition twice, have my art exhibited in several shows, and make a decent business doing portrait commissions and clay figurines.

I’ve taken a few steps to ensure my success. I have been accepted at all of the colleges that I’ve applied to. Most importantly, though, I’ve taught myself to work and I’m not afraid to tackle a problem and whip it into submission. I’ve learned over the years that one of the most important things is never letting yourself down. By respecting oneself, one brings positive change, both for oneself and for the community. It is in this manner, being true to myself, working hard, and remembering that there are people much less fortunate than myself who would kill to have the opportunities that I do that I will advance through the ranks and become the artist that I’ve always wanted to be.



Zion National Park, Utah -photo by Rachael Stewart

Treasurer's Report First Six Months of 2006

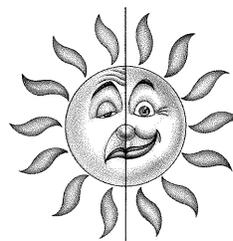
-from Don Drumtra, Treasurer

I am happy to report that our financial condition is sound. Our income for the period slightly exceeded our expenses and our assets sufficient to cover our capital requirements for the next six months.

As may be seen in our Operations Statement, we were fortunate to have sufficient interest revenue from our certificates of deposit (CDs) to offset our other expenses. This interest would not have been available to us if we had not had the small surpluses from our Regional Gatherings (RGs) over the past few years to build the CD investment principals shown on our Balance Sheet.

In the next six months we will be awarding our annual scholarship as well as hosting our annual RG. The principals will be providing us the capital support needed for our scholarship and RG programs in addition to generating interest to support our general operations.

With the continued support from our members and good RG management, we anticipate our net results for 2006 will provide a small increase in our principals to begin 2007.



Lonestar Mensa Balance Sheet

2006 June 30

Assets

Liquid Assets

Checking Account	
GB Checking Balance	\$ 2,895.54
GB Uncleared Checks	<u>(202.70)</u>
Total Checking Accounts	\$2,692.84
Certificates of Deposit, Uncommitted Funds	
C. of D. 1, 5 mo, 2006 Aug 20	5,158.25
C. of D. 2, 6 mo, 2006 Nov 16	<u>2,051.49</u>
Total CDs Uncommitted Funds	7,209.74
Certificates of Deposit, Committed Funds	
Regional gathering fund	4,775.00
Scholarship fund	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total CDs Committed Funds	5,975.00
Total Liquid Assets	\$15,877.58
Short Term and Other Assets	
Accounts Receivable	\$ 105.00
Prepaid Expenses	
Prepaid Postage	\$ 504.64
Prepaid Take Home Tests	<u>105.00</u>
Total Prepaid Expenses	\$ 609.64
Total ST and Other Assets	\$ 714.64
T otal Assets	\$ 16,592.22

Liability and Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	297.35
RG Registrations	<u>1,334.86</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,632.21
Total Net Worth	14,960.01

T otal Liability and Net Worth

\$ 16,592.22

Lonestar Mensa Operations Report

2006 January 1 - June 30

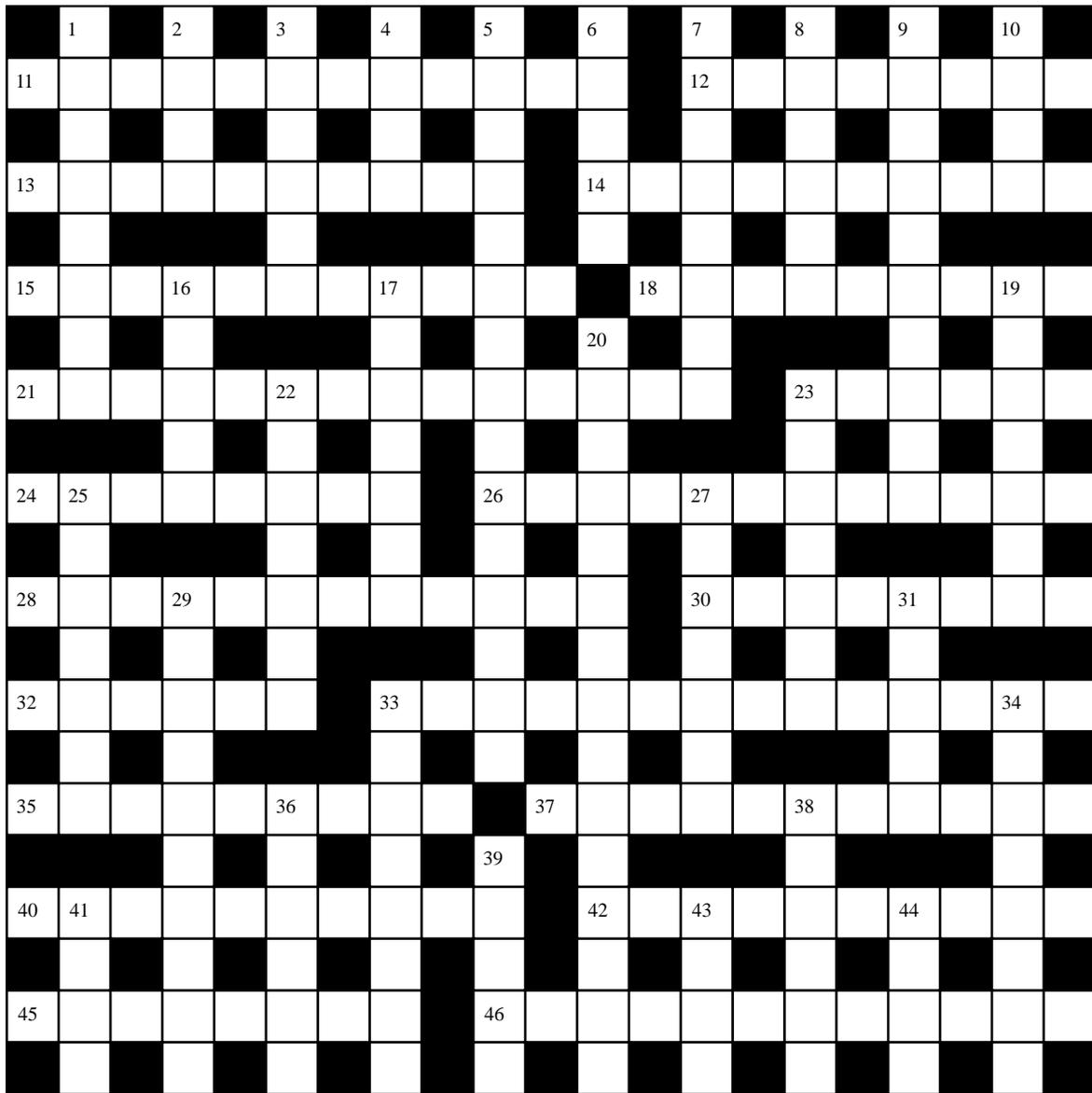
Result of operations

Revenue

National Support	
NS, Membership	2,162.26
NS, Subscriptions	31.20
NS, Testing	<u>145.00</u>
Total National Support	2,338.46
Interest on CDs	337.67
Other Revenue (ads)	<u>85.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 2,761.13

Expenses (Lonestar programs)

Recruitment and Testing	
Recruitment Print-Copy	32.72
Recruitment Postage	123.11
Recruitment Honoria	5.85
Recruitment Other	<u>3.49</u>
Total Recruitment	\$ 165.17
Newsletter	
Newsletter Print-Copy	1,371.19
Newsletter Postage	470.04
Newsletter Other	<u>70.40</u>
Total Newsletter	\$ 1,911.63
Symposia	
Symposia Hosting	21.85
Symposia Honoria	<u>60.00</u>
Total Symposia	\$ 81.85
Bank Fees	25.00
Other Supplies	37.22
Other Expenses	280.05
Total Expenses	\$ 2,500.92
T otal Result of Operations	\$ 260.21



ACROSS

- 11 south end of a northbound magnet
- 12 seizure disease
- 13 awkward place
- 14 mountain system
- 15 totally blown to heck and beyond
- 18 iron pyrite
- 21 bellyflop, airplane style
- 23 frequent step in Windows install
- 24 shadowed by
- 26 admit error
- 28 leavening agent
- 30 as one
- 32 noisy affair
- 33 bugs, worms, slugs...
- 35 else
- 37 study part of the Tigris' history
- 40 "We shall rule the world! heh, heh, heh..."
- 42 wine openers
- 45 Czech divorcee
- 46 episodes in the life of a saint

DOWN

- 1 shadow's edge
- 2 groove in board's edge
- 3 fermented fodder
- 4 abominable snowmen
- 5 interpret it either way
- 6 long seat
- 7 full orbit
- 8 of a son
- 9 scant
- 10 Peter and Ivan
- 16 take on
- 17 in music, sprightly
- 19 prone to roar
- 20 notice from vacation
- 22 tacked together of this-n-that, in engineering
- 23 Sunnybrook girl
- 25 railroad arch
- 27 a victim of Murphy
- 29 wow
- 31 West Coast shrub
- 33 Tom Hanks w/ volleyball
- 34 from the side
- 36 malt liquor
- 38 arch
- 39 little fella
- 41 leer
- 43 and roll
- 44 trust in

Notice of Meeting Location Change

The Tuesday, August 8, 2006 monthly meeting of Lonestar Mensa will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Austin Public Library, Old Quarry, 7051 Village Center Drive. Village Center drive is the street off FarWest Blvd, between the Post Office and Wells Fargo Bank. The library is about a block down, on the east side – between the post office and HEB grocery store.

August Monthly Meeting

The August meeting will be on energy conservation – a great time to learn how to save money in the hot days of the summer. There will be information on how to identify ways to save on your utility bill. The presentation will give simple tips from weatherizing your home to the setting of thermostats for savings.

Our speaker is Bob Escobedo, Program Representative with the Pedernales Electric Cooperative. Bob has been employed with the Speakers Bureau 4 ½ years – providing informational programs on a variety of topics for organizations throughout the PEC service area.

Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

The Lonestar Mensa sewing circle will meet on Saturday, August 5 1, 2006, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the home of Janet and Mark Kres, 11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin (836-5773). Bring your current handwork project – we enjoy showing off our handwork and sharing information! Light snacks will be served. There are dogs and one cat, in case of allergies.

New Member Party

Saturday, August, 19, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the home of Janet and Mark Kres, 11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin – 836-5773.

New members! It is all about you from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Come meet the ExComm and chairmen – learn the ins and outs of Mensa – and about the Regional Gathering in September. Discover what really happens at Games Night! Learn how programs are determined! Discover opportunities to share your talents!

Other Lonestar Mensa members are welcome from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please come and welcome these new members into Lonestar Mensa.

Poker

Folks,

Great turnout on Saturday at the Poker Night. 11 players, two tables, and the chips flying. The game of the night was Hamlet (queens are wild, and kings are dead).

The next Mensa Poker Night is August 19 (Sat) at Ted Alexander's (see directions below). RSVP to Ted or me if you can make it. Teach us your favorite game.

Bob Dietrich

Directions to Ted's:

From Austin take I-35 north to Georgetown. Exit onto Hwy 29. Turn right onto Hwy 29 going east. From the turn off of I-35 frontage road go exactly 6.0 miles to address 6051 Hwy 29 east, It is on the left side of the road. I will have my white 1980 Cj7 Jeep sitting at my drive for a landmark. You then take my drive about 1/3 of a mile to my house, which is the second house on the drive. Across from the first house you will see some drives made of white rock with my horse trailer and truck. It would probably be easiest for everyone to park their and take walk the drive down the hill to the house.

My home phone is 512-864-9566.

Alternate Solution to July's Sudoku

Solved by Hugh Brown:

1	8	7	3	4	6	2	9	5
5	6	4	2	1	9	8	3	7
9	3	2	8	5	7	6	4	1
3	5	9	4	8	2	7	1	6
4	1	8	6	7	3	2	5	9
7	2	6	1	9	5	3	8	4
2	9	5	7	3	4	1	6	8
6	4	1	5	2	8	9	7	3
8	7	3	9	6	1	4	5	2

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

Wednesday, August 2 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.

Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

Saturday, August 5 1:00-4:00pm

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

Bring your handiwork for an afternoon of sewing, sharing of ideas, and conversation. Light snacks will be served.

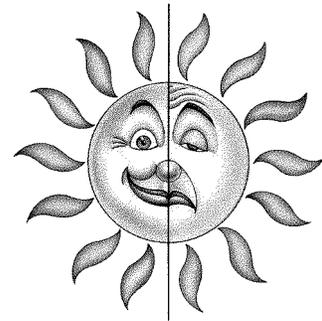
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 8 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, Old Quarry Branch

7051 Village Center Dr, Austin

Location change Please see the announcement on page 10 for details.



Games Night

Saturday, August 12 7:00-10:00pm

Janet and Mark Kres' House

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

Bring munchies and/or your favorite game. We have the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, fourth edition! BYOB.

New Members' Party

Saturday, August 19 1:00-4:00pm

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

New members are invited to meet the officers, chairmen, and other new members from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m Regular Mensa members are invited from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Announcement on page 10.

Poker Night

Saturday, August 19 7:00pm

Ted Alexander's House

6051 Hwy 29 east, Georgetown (512) 864-9566

Please RSVP. BYOB and munchies appreciated. Announcement on page 10 includes directions.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, August 24 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			ExComm			Sewing Circle
6	7	 Monthly Meeting	9	 TGIT	11	12
						Games Night
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		<i>'Dillo Deadline</i>		 TGIT		New Member Party Poker Night
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				 Fold & Sticker		
27	28	29	30	31		
				 TGIT		

2006