

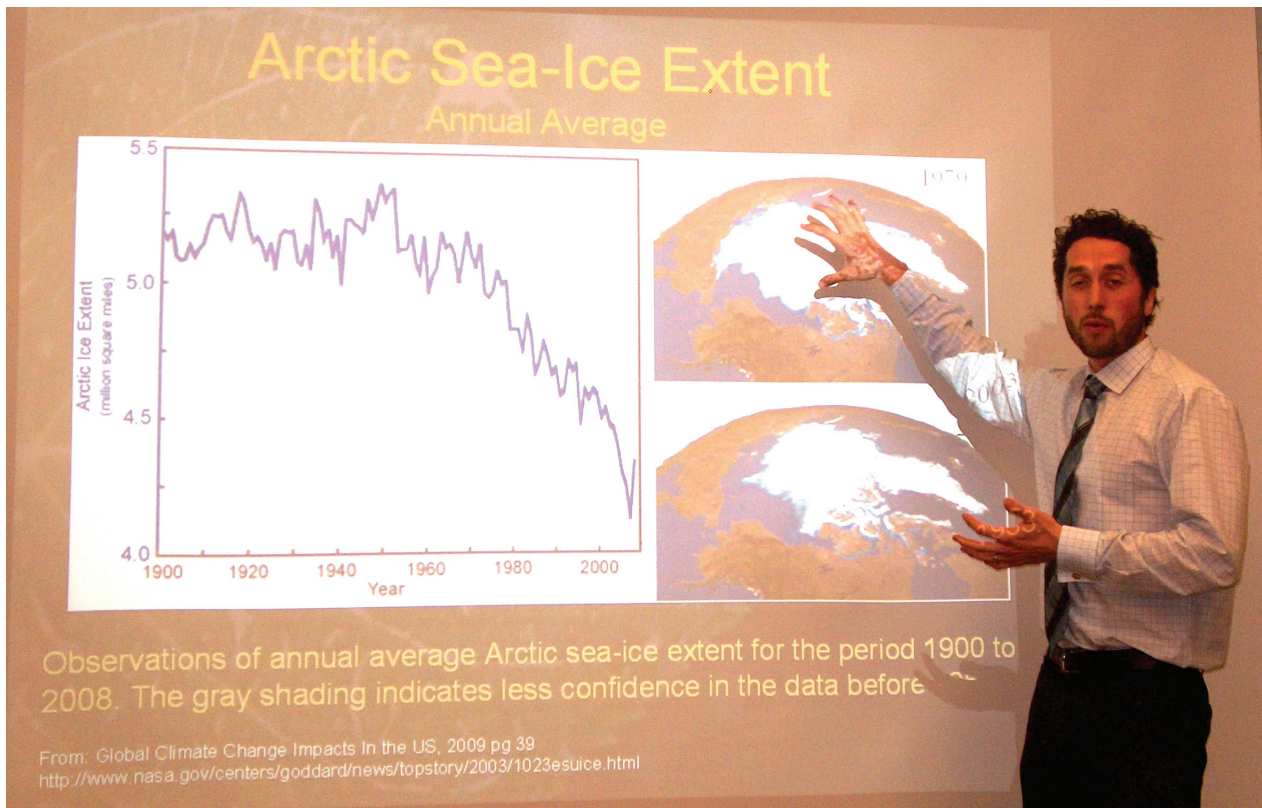
Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 4

April 2010



March Meeting speaker Sascha Peterson.

-photo by Don Drumtra

April General Meeting

Presenter: Austan Librach

Topic: Plug-in-Partners Program -- Austin's electric vehicle program. Austan is the Director of Emerging Transportation Technologies, Austin Energy, a department of the City of Austin. He is Austin's point man for enlisting partners from a broad geographic mix of the largest municipalities. http://epipc01.tamu.edu/phev/document/Austan_Librach_bio.pdf



Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

LocSec:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Vice President:	Barbara Wilson	512-854-9567	barbara.wilson@co.travis.tx.us
Treasurer:	Linda Edelstein	512-491-9881	ledelstein@mindspring.com
Past LocSec:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Senior Officers:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
	Helen Siders	512-799-6985	xlartemis@gmail.com
	Danny South	512-322-8763	danny.south@gracy-title.com
Communications Chair:	Kathie Lawler	512-267-1843	scubakathie@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rachael Stewart	512-496-8725	bookbird@yahoo.com
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Elist Coordinator:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
Web Contact:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net

If you are interested in getting the word out to your fellow Mensans, then you might be interested in serving on the Communications Committee. We need a distribution coordinator for mailing newsletters, a calendar coordinator to track our activities build the calendars for the newsletter and Website, a photographer to photograph significant events, and a Historian to gather historical information about LSM and write our history.

Education Chair:

Scholarship Coordinator:	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com
Gifted Children Coordinator:	Michele Vaughan	512-388-5970	lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

If you are interested in gifted children, scholarships, education activities in LSM there are vacant coordinator positions on the committee for fund raising and publicity.

Membership Chair:	Frederick Goertz	512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com
Testing Coordinator:	John Pfeiffer	512-525-3507	johnpfeiffer@att.net
Testing Proctor:	Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson		

If you enjoy working with people, the Membership committee offers opportunities to serve in contacting new members, caring for current members, awarding members for good service, and other membership activities.

Symposia Chair:

Symposia Publicity Coord.:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
BCS Coordinator:	Robbie Fraser	214-240-4439	tampabuc47@yahoo.com
San Marcos Coordinator:	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com
U.T. Mensa President:	Skyler Kanegi	512-539-0427	skyler.kanegi@gmail.com
Waco Coordinator:	Don Chase	254-694-9327	lowspeedchase@windstream.net

This committee is all about arranging for fun at local gatherings. The committee needs someone to get speakers for and arrange our monthly meetings and someone to arrange picnics, parities, and activities.

SIGHT Coordinator:	Steve Vaughan	512-388-5970	svaughan@austin.rr.com
Arbiter:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Records Manager & Archivist:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com

Nomination Committee:	Chair: Janet Kres	Members: Geri Neemidge, Margaret Wofford
Election Committee:	Chair: Janet Kres	Members: Geri Neemidge, Margaret Wofford
Liaisons for Colloquium 2011:	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863 john@neemidge.net

LonestaRG 2010 Committee

Chair:	Ron and Linda Edelstein		
Interim Members:	<i>Facilities</i> John Neemidge, <i>Hospitality</i> Andrew & Kem Edelstein, <i>Hotel Vacant</i> , <i>Payments Vacant</i> , <i>Photographer Vacant</i> , <i>Programs Vacant</i> , <i>Publicity Vacant</i> , <i>Registration</i> Jane K Thompson, <i>Security Vacant</i> , <i>Tastings Vacant</i> , <i>Testing Vacant</i> , <i>Treasurer</i> Don Drumtra		

Lots of help is needed at the RG. Please let Ron or Linda know if you can spare some time to volunteer.

If you are interested in serving as an activity coordinator on any of the committees, please contact the chair of the committee that interests you or any member of the Board. A complete listing of standard coordinator positions is available on the LSM Website at http://lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/ASIEs/ASIE2010-09_ProgramStructure20100203.pdf but committees may tailor a new job just for you to match your own strengths and interests..

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) Roger Durham

RVC6@us.mensa.org

Don's Dialectics

-by Don Drumtra, LSM LocSec

What are standards? In my first dialectics in the February ALG I wrote about the invisible societal frames that we all live within and about similar frames that exist within Mensa, suggesting that it is best when the frames are invisible, allowing us to have fun, but available to support us when needed. Standards are a set of frames that provide us common ways of doing things and set our expectations. For example, the standard vertical traffic light has the red light on the top and we expect to see the red light on the top; when it is we do not even think about it—the standard is invisible. If we should encounter a traffic light with the red light in the middle, the standard instantly becomes visible. We think that something is wrong; perhaps someone made a mistake. We also have standards that help us relate with each other without thinking about them. The standards might even have special names like common practices, etiquette, political correctness, dos and don'ts, or correct social behavior. For example, we commonly shake someone's hand when it is offered and become uncomfortable (or even offended) when we extend our hand and our colleague refuses to shake hands. Unlike the vertical traffic light standard, which is common around the world, it is not common in some societies to shake hands. When we visit others in these societies, we become conscious of the standard and must learn new standard behavior.

In Lone Star Mensa, one of the standards we use in our formal relationships is Roberts Rules of Order. This is a standard that provides us ways of doing things that is commonly accepted by organizations in America, Great Brittan, and other countries. It is the standard that tells us what how to behave at meetings, what motions are, how to vote, how to write bylaws and minutes, and what the common officers do in an organization such as ours. Using the rules saves us time and gives us the comfort of knowing what will happen next in a meeting. After a motion is made it is seconded, there is discussion, and then a vote. We usually do not think about it. If someone does something out of order, say begins to discuss a motion after it is passed or defeated, others may get uncomfortable and some might suggest that the issue has been settled and that we should move on.

So what? Well, problems arise when some individuals ignore standards particularly standards of behavior. Some folks pride themselves in being different, unconstrained, or marching to a different drummer. "Thinking

outside the box" is a phrase that had become common in industry as positive behavior until recently when the box turned out to be Generally Accepted Accounting Practices. When we follow common standards the standards remain invisible and we do not have to spend time worrying about them. When we choose not to follow them, we may make others uncomfortable, and perhaps might even promote discussion about whether we should follow the standards or not. Such discussion takes away from the time we have to spend on doing good deeds or having fun. It seems to me that it would be best to keep our standards invisible and instead spend our time on doing good deeds and having fun.



-photo by Walter Stewart

Report of the Election Committee

The Board of Officers for LoneStar Mensa are listed below. No petitions for membership were received by the Election Committee.

Since the number of candidates for elected officer positions on the board is less than the number of vacancies (8), we declare the following LSM members elected to the board. Any challenges to the election process may be addressed to the Election Committee and must be received by April 5.

Don Drumtra - 2010-2012
Patty Drumtra - 2010-2011
John Neemidge - 2010-2012
Linda Edelstein - 2010-2012
Helen Siders - 2010-2012

Election Committee:

Janet Kres, Chairman
Margaret Wofford
Geri Neemidge

March 10, 2010

Program Series

What is Austin Doing with Plug-in Cars?

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

On Wednesday, April 14, Austan Librach is scheduled to present details on Austin's electric vehicle program called the Plug-in-Partners Program. Austan is the Director of Emerging Transportation Technologies, Austin Energy, a department of the City of Austin. He is Austin's point man for enlisting partners from a broad geographic mix of the largest municipalities. [http://epipc01.tamu.edu/phev/document/Austan Librach bio.pdf](http://epipc01.tamu.edu/phev/document/Austan_Librach_bio.pdf) Come and listen, ask questions, and participate in the discussion.

This program is the second in our series on Climate Protection in Austin. During our March Program, Sascha Peterson, the City of Austin Climate Protection Coordinator, provided an excellent overview of the City's plan to reverse our impact on climate change. We learned that the plan consists of several components: a Municipal Plan to reduce the impact from Austin's city facilities, a Utility Plan to address Austin Energy's impact from power generation, a Homes and Building plan to address the impact of constriction in Austin, the Community Plan to address outreach initiatives, and the "Go Neutral" Plan, to provide tools to citizens, business, organizations and visitors to measure and reduce our carbon footprint. During the presentation, Sascha answered the many questions we posed to him resulting in a lively discussion.

The Plug-in cars program is scheduled for the second Wednesday in April at 7pm at the North Village Branch Library on the SW corner of Steck at Burnet in Austin. See the 'What's Happening' page for details. Please join us.

Meeting Coordinator Needed

We are in need of a Meeting Coordinator. This is an officer position responsible for setting up programs for our monthly general meetings the second of each month and coordinating arrangements for the meeting. It is a good position for someone who is interested in learning about the various sources of speakers available in and around Austin, developing contacts with the various organizations that sponsor them, and developing skills in arranging meetings. If you are interested please contact the LocSec, drumtra@aol.com. Programs are in the works for the next few months so there is time to learn what to do before taking over.

April Birthdays

- 2 Bruce Wayne Jean
- 2 Rick Fonte
- 3 Mark Summers
- 6 John Morey
- 6 James Collins
- 8 Curtis Williamson
- 8 Charles W Jones
- 9 Sarah Graham
- 10 Leslie Hoobler Roberts
- 12 Kyle Olson
- 13 Robert E Drum
- 14 Johnnie Ray Vaughn
- 14 Michael Lewis Drapkin
- 15 Janet Stineman Kres
- 15 Adam W Kantz
- 17 Brian Bloch
- 17 David T Silvey
- 18 Bill Taylor
- 18 David J Burgett
- 18 Patricia Carolyn Dicuffa
- 18 Peter Bradford
- 20 Susan Folger Ward
- 22 William Edward Jones MD
- 22 John Leslie Neemidge
- 23 Robin D Green
- 23 Andrew M Rooke
- 23 Stephanie Stoebe
- 23 Nancy Hester
- 24 Patricia B McCormick
- 24 Alfred Coto
- 24 Carolyn A Cox
- 24 VeraLouise Pfeiffer
- 26 Wes Davenport
- 26 M J McCloskey
- 26 Robert Thomas Palko
- 27 Dr Dan B Dydek
- 28 David James White
- 29 John LaTemple
- 29 Ted Alexander

Welcome New Members

Sarah Flowers * Theofilos Giagmouris
Donna D Graves * Karen Jager
Kimberly A Stevens * Barrett R Watts

Welcome to Lone Star Mensa

Kathryn Bennett * Omar Richardson-Sut
Kenneth M Smith * Walter Stewart
Cara Valentine

Welcome Back to Lone Star Mensa

Zachary Atkinson * Michael Dworaczyk
Paula Howe * Scott Nicholson Kurland
Richard Letts * Patricia B McCormick
Dean McCormick * Dr Caryl Neman

Goodbye, we wish you well

Daniel Rivera
Armadillo Literary Gazette -- April 2010

From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC Region 6

I see in the March issue of Pensar, the newsletter of Paso del Norte Mensa, that someone has asked that I write more about what the AMC is doing, rather than what's going on around the Region. Some RVCs do fill their columns with discussions of things going on at the national level, and I have given some thought to that as well, but there are several reasons why I have mostly chosen not to do so.

First of all, quite frankly, there doesn't seem to be much interest in national Mensa politics hereabouts. In my own local group and the four others I have visited so far, only one person has asked me about a national issue, and everyone else left the room when it came up. If you're interested in some particular matter, I encourage you to e-mail (rvc6@us.mensa.org) me and I'll be happy to discuss the issue individually without boring everyone else.

A second reason for not concentrating on national issues is that a lot of information is readily available on the AML website or in the Mensa Bulletin. I just got back from the AMC meeting in San Diego, and I could have filled this column with a discussion of what we accomplished, but long before seeing the column, you could have just gone to the website, read the posted minutes of the meeting and seen for yourself what we did. (Primarily, we adopted a balanced budget, voted to submit to the membership a By-Laws amendment to change the way we replace and remove RVCs, appointed the national Nominating Committee, and created a task force to look for ways to make the AMC more effective.)

Finally, if what was being requested was information about what the AMC might be thinking about doing in the future, I am reluctant to comment on that because most of the discussion among the AMC members prior to an official meeting is confidential. My predecessor as RVC got crossways with the rest of the AMC because he accidentally published something from a confidential e-mail, and I don't want to make the same mistake. It's very easy to start out discussing something that's common knowledge and inadvertently add something that was said in confidence. You may think this is unfair or unduly secretive, but the fact is that most of what gets talked about among the AMC members never makes it to the meeting agenda, or is withdrawn before being acted on, so even if I could tell you what we have been

discussing, much of it would turn out to be completely irrelevant, if not actually misleading.

Having said all that, if I feel that misinformation is being circulated regarding American Mensa's activities or programs, I will certainly use this column to propagate the facts, as I did last year regarding the Inpharmatica lawsuit. And, if I'm wrong about point number one above, let me hear from you. If I get a groundswell of requests for more discussion of national issues, I'll try to find a way to tiptoe through the confidentiality minefield and talk more about what might appear on the agenda of future AMC meetings.

Now, let's forget about politics and get back to partying. Don't forget Memorial Day weekend in Houston, where Gulf Coast Mensa will be pulling out all the stops to provide us with a fabulous Regional Gathering. Hope to see you there!

Roger Durham

LSM Board of Officers Minutes - March '10

-submitted by Barbara Wilson, Secretary of the Board

Don called the regular monthly meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers to order at 7:12 PM, March 3, 2010, at 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, Texas 78727. Attending were: Don Drumtra, Linda Edelstein; Ron Edelstein; John Neemidge; Danny South, Barbara Wilson.

Don moved the following initial routine motions which were all approved:

- Approve agenda
- Dispense with reading of minutes
- Approval of minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's report (see webpage\bylaws\board of officers for copy)

Don introduced a motion to adopt the two standing rules he wrote codifying what he did related to the minutes of the February meeting intending it to be a continuation of a motion presented at the February meeting before these rules existed. The rules revise the content and format of print and electronic minutes of the Board. The first proposed standing rule limits the contents of the newsletter minutes to date, time, city of meeting, those present, adopted motions with text or without text if the motion is online, and date, time and location of next meeting. The second proposed standing rule requires preparation of another set of minutes that conform to the usual format presented in Robert's Rules of Order for electronic posting.

The members discussed these for about 45 minutes. The member who initiated the motion explained that the original intent was to simplify the responsibility of minute preparation (make it easier) but noted that the standing rules seemed to make it more work. Another member stated that there was an historical value to documenting the content of extended discussions at Board meetings, even when there is no adopting motion approved. Another member stated that this topic need not be included in rules, the judg-

XII **LonestaRG** XII

* Games
* Contests
* Tastings

2010

Dozens of choices

* Casino Night
* Dance

The “dozenth” celebration

* Planned speakers on a variety of subjects
* Kid’s track for the Young Mensans

And a lot more!

Come celebrate a dozen years of LonestaRG with your Mena friends. Hedonism on a budget. This is “family friendly, so bring ‘em all. This year’s LonestaRG will be held on Labor Day weekend, 3-5 September 2010. The venue will be the Wingate by Wyndham Inn on IH-35 in Round Rock, the same as last year. The room rate includes an extended Continental breakfast. Room rates will be announced on the website and in the newsletter as soon as contract negotiations are complete.

Send registrations to Jane K. Thompson, Registrar LonestaRG XII, 2305 Monaco Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (jane12125@austin.rr.com). To register online via PayPal or to download a printable registration form, go to: www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm

Registration is \$45 until June 1st, \$50 until July 4th, \$60 until August 21st, \$70 until September 3rd and \$75 at the door. Children 9-17 half price and 8 or under are free. Day Trippers are \$40/day.

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Chicken Coop Tour April 3!**

Board Meeting, cont...

ment of any person writing the minutes is adequate to determine style and whether the content of the minutes is to be informative or perfunctory. The Secretary offered to cede the preparation of the minutes to a recorder as done at National if the Board wanted a strict adherence to Robert’s usual, though not mandated, format. There was a side bar that the newsletter editor should have the flexibility to edit as needed for space considerations but should be subject to review just in case bias might creep into editing in the future.

To address the issue of brevity and allow these to be recorded as “All initial routine motions were approved,” Barbara moved that in minutes of all subsequent meetings “initial routine motions” means motions to approve the agenda, minutes and Treasurer’s report and the motion was approved.

One member of the Board noted that there was not agreement on this topic and it appeared that none was likely to result from continued discussion and asked whether the issue should be postponed. Don said it should be postponed, not tabled, and the board approved a motion to postpone further discussion until the first board meeting after the new board is installed.

Patsy Graham wrote asking the Board to approve a rate for a quarter page ad in the newsletter and provided the proposed ad copy (see website\bylaws\board of officers for copy). The rate for a 3” x 5” business card is \$10; a quarter page is 2-1/2 business cards. The board approved Don’s motion that Patsy Graham be given a rate of \$25 for a quarter page advertisement in the April 2010 newsletter.

What's Happening in April?

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Wednesday

Wednesday, April 7

7:00-8:00pm

Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein

1439 Dapplegrey Ln, Austin 78727

Contact the LocSec, Don Drumtra, at drumtra@aol.com, 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda.

Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursday

Thursday April 8

Midnight

Email: scubakathie@gmail.com & bookbird@yahoo.com

Articles submissions are due to the ALG Editor and calendar inputs are due to the Calendar Coordinator by Midnight on the Dillo Date. Email both to: scubakathie@gmail.com and bookbird@yahoo.com.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, April 8 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, April 15 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, April 22 at Central Mkt North

Central Market Café 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market North at Central Park

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

Central Market South at Westgate

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 899-4300

Meet us at the Café after work for fun, conversation, and food. Prospective members welcome.

Central Market (North) Café is located on the south side of the Central Market grocery store in the Central Park shopping center east of N. Lamar between 38th and 41st Streets. We usually meet upstairs but if there is party, look for us downstairs or outside.

Central Market (South) Café is located on the east side of the Central Market grocery store in the Westgate Mall on the south side of S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR71) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trl. Once inside, look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts.

Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

Wednesday, April 14

7:00 - 8:30pm

North Village Branch Library

2505 Steck Ave, Austin

Plug-In Cars for Austin: See the cover page and article on page 4 for program details.

The library is located on the South West corner of Steck and Burnet.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, April 22

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Cafe, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

(512) 206-1020

Join the TGIT Group and help seal and label the newsletter.

Prospective members welcome. See TGIT for directions.

Games Night

4th Saturday

Saturday, April 24

7:00-11:00pm

Hosted by Patsy Graham

5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757

Bring your favorite beverage; I'll have some small snacks. I have several games but if you have a favorite bring it along. Please RSVP to mensapats@att.net so I'll have an idea of how many to expect.

Upcoming in May

May 5: Board Meeting

May 12: Membership Meeting

May 13: TGIT North

May 13: 'Dillo Deadline

May 15: Games Night

May 20: TGIT South

May 27: TGIT North

May 27: Seal & Label



Board Meeting, cont...

The Board approved Don's motion that the Communications Committee review and recommend to the Board standardized rates for several larger sizes (full page, half, quarter) of newsletter advertisements based on frequency of insertion in addition to the rates for business cards.

The next meeting of the Board is on April 7 at 7 pm at 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, Texas.

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PUBLICATION NOTICES

The *Amadillo Literary Gazette* is the official publication of Lone Star Mensa. Mensans who are not members of LSM may subscribe for \$10/yr for paper copies or \$5/yr for electronic copies. Send subscription requests to the publ. office. Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text/.txt format preferred) 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 restricted 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.

Commercial: 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.



Please send print & Web calendar input/changes to the Calendar Coordinator, Kathie Lawler; 512-267-1843, scubakathie@gmail.com. Monthly calendar inputs are due to Kathie by the Dillo Deadline normally the 2nd Thursday of each month.

2010 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				April 1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	9	10
11	12	13	14 Member Meeting	15 TGIT South	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 TGIT North Seal & Label	23	24 Games Night
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
2	3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8