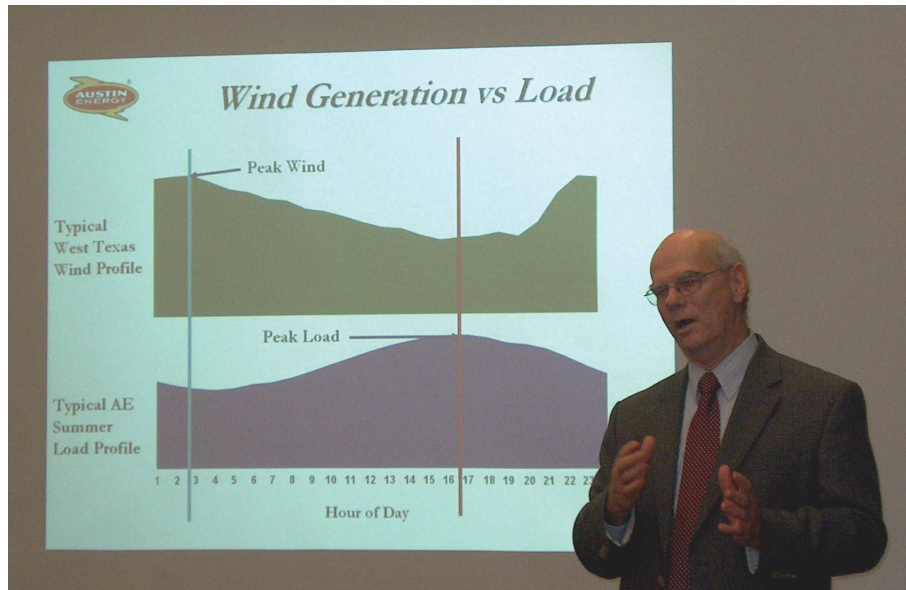


# Armadillo Literary Gazette

*A Publication of Lone Star Mensa*

*Volume XXXVII  
Number 7  
July 2010*

Larry Ashford presented a talk about wind power in April. --photo by Don Drumtra



## July General Meeting

Current issues and initiatives at Austin Water

Population growth and the recent drought are causing the City of Austin to place even more emphasis on water conservation. One of the most exciting projects that Austin Water is embarking on is the Reclaimed Water System. This utility within a utility will change how we view water in the years to come. Last fall the Austin City Council approved the construction of Water Treatment Plant 4 employing new technology that will do more to help the city stay green.

On the second Wednesday in July, Jill Mayfield will provide a brief overview and progress report on the plant and its new technology along with a summary of some of the other major city water and wastewater projects. Then she will help us understand how these projects work together in the context of Austin's overall water conservation program to resolve the issues that face the City of Austin water and wastewater utility as well as city residents.

Jill Mayfield is an expert in translating the technical concepts of complex programs into language that we all can understand. She is a UT Journalism graduate with almost 20 years experience with the City of Austin programs and over 25 years experience with public programs. She has received several awards for her work including the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. She is currently president of Jill Mayfield Communications and Public Affairs Coordinator for the City of Austin Water Department.

This presentation continues our series on Austin's Environmental Programs—you won't want to miss it. So add it to your calendar: 7 - 8:30 PM, Wednesday, July 11, at the North Village Branch Library on the SW corner of Steck at Burnet in Austin. See the "What's Happening" page for details.

## Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

<b>LocSec:</b>	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Patty Drumtra	512-291-0361	drumtrapa@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Linda Edelstein	512-491-9881	ledelstein@mindspring.com
<b>Past LocSec:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
<b>Senior Officers:</b>	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
	Helen Siders	512-799-6985	xlartemis@gmail.com
<b>Communications Chair:</b>	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Rachael Stewart	512-496-8725	bookbird@yahoo.com
<b>Proofreaders:</b>	LocSec, Past LocSec, Communications Chair, John & Geri Neemidge		
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
<b>Media Coordinator:</b>	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
<b>Elist Coordinator:</b>	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
<b>Web Contact:</b>	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
<b>Education Chair:</b>			
<b>Scholarship Coordinator:</b>	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com
<b>Gifted Children Coordinator:</b>	Michele Vaughan	512-388-5970	lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Frederick Goertz	512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com
<b>Testing Coordinator &amp; Proctor:</b>	John Pfeiffer	512-525-3507	johnpfeiffer@att.net
<b>Testing Proctor:</b>	Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson, Mike McCormick, VeraLouise Kleinfeld Pfeiffer		
<b>New Member Coordinator:</b>	Mike Poole	512-326-1459	mike_poole@sbcglobal.net
<b>Symposia Chair:</b>			
<b>Symposia Publicity Coord.:</b>	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
<b>BCS Coordinator:</b>	Robbie Fraser	214-240-4439	tampabuc47@yahoo.com
<b>San Marcos Coordinator:</b>	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com
<b>Waco Coordinator:</b>	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, parties, and activities.			
<b>SIGHT Coordinator:</b>	Steve Vaughan	512-388-5970	svaughan@austin.rr.com
<b>Arbiter:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
<b>Ombudsman:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
<b>Records Manager &amp; Archivist:</b>	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
<b>Liaisons for Colloquium 2011:</b>	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
<b>LonestarRG 2010 Committee</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Ron and Linda Edelstein		
<b>Interim Members:</b>	<i>Facilities</i> John Neemidge, <i>Hospitality</i> Andrew & Kem Edelstein, <i>Hotel</i> Robin Beatles, <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.			
<b>Mind Games 2012 Bid Chair:</b>	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141	mensapats@att.net
<b>Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)</b>	Roger Durham		RVC6@us.mensa.org

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***Welcome New Mensa Members  
to Lone Star Mensa***

Claude I Leasure  
Fletcher Locklear  
Shaughn Simmons  
Alan Waisanen

***Welcome to Lone Star Mensa***

Austin G Meyer  
Daniel Rivera  
Mark J Thomasson

***Welcome back to Mensa  
and Lone Star Mensa***

***We missed you***  
Andrew Butler  
Rita Barker Christie  
Jeff Michael Clewell  
Matthew Solley

## Don's Dialectics – Just Do It

*-by Don Drumtra, LocSec*

In my June Dialectics I suggested that members who wanted to sponsor a Mensa activity should just do it. No approval was needed. But is there not some sort of structure needed to get the word out? Isn't there a need to take care of the money and to coordinate what we do? Of course; LSM officers do that. What is an LSM officer? It is any Mensan volunteer who has been appointed with an LSM title and written duties. In LSM there are over 40 officer positions to accommodate folks who want to volunteer and more can be added. Our officers speak for Lone Star Mensa in their area of responsibility. How much money do these officers get paid? None! But some consider that they are being paid with the gratitude of those who they help; some seek the experience of working with fellow Mensans to accomplishing something good; some want experience to add to their résumés; some want to help their community; and some just want to have fun.

In my first Dialectics (ALG Feb 2010) I discussed the need for a structure to create an environment within which LSM members may have fun and discussed what form that fun might take. Since then several folks have volunteered and some have continued to volunteer to assume responsibility for providing pieces of that structure. LSM has identified over 30 coordinator positions—available for officers who want to bring together the talents of LSM members to bear on specific activities in a cohesive sort of way. There are four positions for standing committee chairs who coordinate the efforts of the coordinators in the areas of communications (newsletters, Website, email lists, etc), education (scholarship, gifted children), membership (recruitment, testing, and care), and symposia (small gatherings of our members with a common purpose of expanding our knowledge of the world, socializing, and having fun). And finally there are the members of the Board of Officers, (the elected officers and standing committee chairs) who try to keep the whole thing together.

In May, a new group of officers assumed responsibility for coordination of Lone Star Mensa's activities from May 2010 through March 2011. Two members volunteered to chair standing committees, Fred Goertz to coordinate membership activities and Charles Wilson to coordinate Communications activities. We very much appreciate their offers to help by serving in these critical positions. We also appreciate very much the other

Mensans who volunteered to become and continue to serve as officers and coordinators. Their names are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

So, as I wrote last month, if you just want to sponsor an activity, no approvals are needed, you just do it. However, if you get bored with setting up LSM activities and want to help others set them up, why not consider volunteering to be a coordinator? There are coordinator positions that are vacant and some coordinators are always asking for help. Just contact the chairs of any of the standing committees whose areas interest you or either of the RG chairs and tell them what you would like to do. They and their committees make the appointments. No board of LocSec approval is needed. They just do it.

:-) :) :o) :] :3  
:c)  
:> =] 8) =)

## June Board Minutes

*-submitted by Patty Drumtra, Board Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:15 PM, June 1, 2010, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Attending were: Ron Edelstein, Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, and John Neemidge. The Board adopted without debate the agenda and the May 3 minutes published in the May Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 5 and 6.

Linda presented the monthly Financial Report for 2010, April 1-May 31. The Board approved the report without debate.

The board ratified an e-mail vote to change board meetings to the first Tuesdays of each month from 6-7 PM, except for July and to change the July meeting to the second Tuesday (ASIE 2010-17).

Ron moved that the Board authorize the 2010 RG Co-chairs to negotiate a multi-year contract for the RG at Wyndham Wingate, Round Rock, subject to approval of the Board and the National Office before final signature. The board unanimously adopted the motion with discussion.

Linda reported the status and progress of the RG, 2010.

The next monthly board meeting will be July 13, at 6 PM at Ron Edelstein's house.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM

Armadillo Literary Gazette -- July 2010

## From the RVC

Those of you who didn't attend the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering over Memorial Day weekend (which, I'm sad to say, was nearly all of you) really missed something. RG Chair MaDiana Diaz and her team put together an excellent weekend of games, speakers, and general socializing, including a fantastic FREE single-malt Scotch tasting (donated, I understand, by GCM's Clarence Parker), that many considered the highlight of the weekend. I had a great time, along with about 100 others, and the only thing that I found disappointing was the lack of participation. Now some of you have complained that I seem to do little, as your Regional Vice Chairman, except promote Gatherings, and I cannot deny that there is some truth in that assertion. However, the fact is that in more than 30 years of membership, I have found that Gatherings are really what Mensa does best, and if you aren't taking advantage of the three annual RGs in our region, not to mention the Annual Gathering, you are missing out on the best part of your membership. Every year, in Houston, Austin, and Dallas, dozens of your fellow Mensans spend hundreds of hours putting together exciting, enjoyable Gatherings for the benefit of hundreds of people they have never met, and all you have to do is show up! Doug Williams, assistant LocSec of New Mexico Mensa, came to the GCM RG, and if he could come all the way from Albuquerque to Houston, you can certainly make it from wherever you live to at least one of our three RGs. You have two more chances this year, the next one being Lone Star Mensa's RG in Austin over Labor Day weekend, and then the North Texas Mensa RG over Thanksgiving weekend in Dallas. Look for registration forms on the LSM and NTM websites, or check the listings in the back of the Mensa Bulletin for contact information.

Now, with that for a warm-up, I'm off to Michigan in a couple of weeks for this year's Annual Gathering. If you've never been to an AG, you cannot begin to imagine what it's like to be surrounded for 4 or 5 days by 2,000 or more of your fellow Ms. By the time most of you read this, the 2010 AG will be well underway, but you can start planning now for next year's AG in Portland, OR, or for 2012 in Reno, NV, or if your budget doesn't include trips to faraway places for Mensa events, mark your calendar now to attend the 2013 AG in Fort Worth, right here in Region 6.

All that notwithstanding, I do understand that many of

you have interests other than Gatherings, and I will be happy to share my views on any Mensa topics that appeal to you. If there is something specific you would like to see addressed in this column, just let me know. You can e-mail me at [rvc6@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc6@us.mensa.org), or if you don't do e-mail, write to me at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

Roger Durham



## July Birthdays

- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1  | Aaron Rabushka           |
| 6  | Charles Alexander        |
| 6  | Arval W Bohn             |
| 8  | J Paul Crider            |
| 8  | Victor P Landry          |
| 8  | David R Posh             |
| 8  | Jimmy D Roberts          |
| 11 | Matthew T Erickson       |
| 13 | Ashley Marrow            |
| 13 | Barbara Wilson           |
| 16 | Sharon Leal              |
| 16 | Alan Waisanen            |
| 19 | Joshua T LeRoy           |
| 19 | Coylene Turlington       |
| 23 | Alberto J Diez-Canseco   |
| 23 | Steven McKissick         |
| 24 | Sandra L Hense           |
| 24 | Aram E Khalili           |
| 25 | Michael G Dennis         |
| 25 | Timothy A Goldenburg     |
| 25 | John P Harvey            |
| 26 | Todd L Shaw              |
| 26 | David Sikora             |
| 27 | Joseph A McMillen        |
| 28 | Andrew Henryson          |
| 28 | Mary Kathryn Montgomery  |
| 28 | Wendell Leon Weatherford |
| 29 | Reid L Allen             |
| 29 | Maj Rodney B Corona Ret  |

Registration Form for Lonestar RG 2010 The Dozenth RG  
 Labor Day Weekend, Sept 3-6  
 Wingate Hotel, 1209 N. I-35, Round Rock, TX 78664

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #3 \_\_\_\_\_ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #4 \_\_\_\_\_ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fees: Include programs, entertainment, games tournaments, speakers, hospitality suite (drinks, meals/snacks), and events all weekend long!

RG Registration Rates:

\$50 – June 1 - July 4, 2010

\$60 – July 5 – August 21, 2010

\$70 – Until September 2, 2010

\$75 – September 3 and at the door

Half-rates available for kids 9 - 17 years of age at the time of the RG (Kids 0 - 8 attend free)

Single day rates:

Fri. \$20; Sat-Sun \$40; \$10; Mon.

Tastings:

Cheese - \$5.00

Coffee - \$5.00

Chocolate - \$5.00

Registrant #1 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #2 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #3 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #4 - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel rates at the Wingate are \$85/night. Contact the hotel for reservations and ask for the Lonestar Mensa rate (512) 341-7000 or <http://www.wingateroundrock.com/Check one: Money Order Cash PayPal Check payable to: Lonestar Mensa RG XII>

Mail to:

Jane K. Thompson  
Registrar, Lonestar Mensa RG XII  
2305 Monaco Drive  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

For more information, contact the Registrar at: [jane12125@austin.rr.com](mailto:jane12125@austin.rr.com) or [www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm](http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm)

Please send me more information or sign me up for:

I'd like to volunteer for:

Hospitality                  Recycling  
Registration    Transportation  
Clean-up            Security/Equipment  
Speaker Liaison

Other Requests:

Need a roommate  
Need a ride to the hotel  
Other:

### @}-;-'--- Rose's Ramblings

Hello. My name is Rose Berkowitz. About a year ago I moved to the Austin area from Central New Jersey, where I was an active member of the local Mensa chapter. If you've ever attended a Snowball RG you may have met me or my late husband. (Howard and I were a semi-professional singer/songwriting duo known as Geode, appearing all over the tri-state area and on local radio and cable TV.) One of the things I did for a while was write a monthly column for the FORVM, and I've now volunteered to do so for the Armadillo. I hope you'll enjoy my efforts.

I'm interested in a great many things, so this column will vary. It could be an essay, a personal story, a poem, or anything else that occurs to me. Courteous comments and suggestions from readers are welcome. I can be reached at [rberkowitz@austin.rr.com](mailto:rberkowitz@austin.rr.com).

I thought I'd start by explaining that I am very liberal in most regards, a feminist, and what some would call a "New Ager." I realize that therefore, to some logical-minded Mensans, what I have to say may sometimes be perceived as trite or ill-informed. But please keep in mind that what I've endured, overcome, and achieved in my life has shaped me. A brief summary:

I'm the oldest of seven, born into an extremely poor and dysfunctional family. I grew up in a ghetto neighborhood in Chicago, dropped out of high school in 1964, and had three children by the time I was 18. I started work as a file clerk, but went back to school while working full time and raising my children. Despite an abusive first husband, ten years later I had earned an MBA with honors on full scholarship as a graduate research assistant from Roosevelt University

in Chicago. I had many different jobs, but each one was a step forward. In 1975 I became a systems analyst. In 1980 I joined Illinois Bell, and in 1985 was relocated by AT&T to New Jersey as a project manager. In 2002 I opened my own business, a Curves for Women franchise. In 2008-09 I lost everything—business, home, health, and worst of all, my beloved soul mate.

I moved here to be near my youngest daughter and her family. I'm working through my grief and trying to get on with my life as best I can. I'm hoping that writing this column will be one more thing to keep me thinking and growing and motivated. Here's a short poem, to start things off:

#### **WATCHERS**

The rose is dancing in my windowpane  
Her tender petals loosening in the wind.

She dips and curtsies, so it seems to me—  
Her nature brave and graceful till the end.

And now she turns again, more desperately—  
But feels no scorn nor pity for her twin.

Oh, is she watching me, as I am her,  
Aware that soon my petals too will fall?

And is there Something out there watching us,  
Our joys and sorrows fodder to its need?

I don't drive due to vision problems, so I don't attend many events. But I'm planning to come to the Lonestar RG in September. I hope to meet many of you there. In the meantime, again, your comments are most welcome.

# What's Happening in July?

## **'Dillo Deadline**

**2nd Thursday**

**Thursday July 8**

**Midnight**

Email: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@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: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com and bookbird@yahoo.com.

## **Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)**

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

**Thursday, July 8 at Central Mkt North**

**Thursday, July 15 at Central Mkt South**

**Thursday, July 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 who appear smart.

## **Board of Officers Meeting**

**1st Tuesday (except July)**

**Wednesday, July 13 6:00-7:00pm**

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.

## **Monthly Membership Meeting**

**2nd Wednesday**

**Wednesday, July 14 7:00 - 8:30pm**

North Village Branch Library  
2505 Steck Ave, Austin

Austin Energy's Residential Rebate Program: See the cover page and article on page 3 for program details.

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

## **Games Night**

**3rd Saturday**

**Saturday, July 17**

**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.

## **Seal & Label**

**4th Thursday (Moved on Holidays)**

**Thursday, July 22 6:00-8:00pm**

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

Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter. Prospective members are welcome. See TGIT for directions.

# Upcoming in August & beyond

August 3: Board of Officers Meeting

August 11: Membership Meeting

August 12: TGIT North; 'Dillo Deadline

August 19: TGIT South

August 21: Games Night

August 26: TGIT North; Seal & Label

*and*

September 3-5: LonestaRG

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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 July 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 July 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 July be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter July 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 July 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 July 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.



See the online calendar for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes to calendar items. Online calendar inputs may be submitted at any time. Calendar inputs for the printed calendar are due to Charles Wilson (page 2). by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

2010 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				July 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting	14 Member Meeting	15 TGIT South	16	17 Games Night
18	19	20	21	22 TGIT North Seal & Label	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August 1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6	7