Neva-Mind

Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 36, Issue 3, March 2012



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We need you! The *Neva-Mind* is your newsletter. Help us make it better. Send us your thoughts, (essays — fiction or non-fiction), humor, poetry, artwork or photography. Share with us your travels, your hobbies, your activities. Have you found a great website? Have you heard a great quote? I'm hoping to hear from you. Email editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Cover Credits: *Bill Kositzky (and friends)*



Ken, Anna, family and friends made party of 6 adults and 5 youngsters for an outing at Reno's Discovery Museum. One of our goals was to make some photos to highlight activities for families with kids who might be visiting Reno for the coming 2012 Mensa AG. A good time was had by all! http://www.nvdm.org/

Bill Kositzky

(Our cover girl is creating leg-powered electricity. See more of their day at the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum on pages 16 an 17.)

A Note From the Editor

by Anna Wright



Hello and welcome to our March edition.

The fires of this winter have caused danger and hardship to so many of our friends, neighbors, and fellow Mensans. Our LocSec, Bob McAllister, had a much-too-close call with these forces of nature. Be sure to read about his experience beginning on page 4.

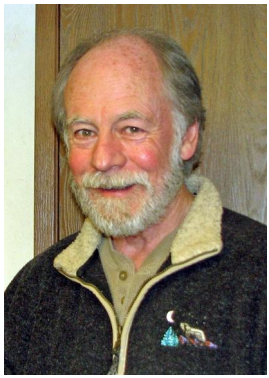
In happier news, some of our future Mensans have explored the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum. I highly recommend that you discover it yourself. But, be sure to take your kids or grandkids. Entrance requires that adults be escorted by kids. (page 16)

We also have a new (and hopefully recurring) column by a local Mensan who is now a Solar System Ambassador. See his introduction to what's new in space on page 8.

And, happy St. Patrick's Day, the day when everyone is a little bit Irish! ■

From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister



Fire

Oddly, last month I wrote about snowflakes. This month will be equal time for an opposite, fire. Specifically, first-hand experience with the recent, ravaging "Washoe Drive Fire."

On January 19, 2012 at around 12:30 p.m., I happened to look out of a window and noticed a large cloud moving rapidly through my neighborhood. It was very windy outside as is often the case in Washoe Valley. My first thought was, "That's not the beginning of a snow storm. It must be a dust cloud being stirred up by the high winds."

Then I smelled smoke. Stepping outdoors to get a better view, I realized that there was the beginnings of a fire about a quarter of a mile away. It was also apparent that the wind would be moving it directly through where I was standing.

I called Mary at her work and said, "Guess what? We're having a fire. It promises to be serious." Mary dropped her work and immediately drove home, just beating the setup of road blocks.

By the time she got home, the whole neighborhood was enveloped in very heavy smoke. Buildings were on fire. She looked for me, but couldn't find me.

I was running from one side of our house to another, running hoses to pour water on flash hot points. It was odd to see decayed vegetation on the ground suddenly erupt on fire. That some places were ignited due to large, tumbling, flaming pieces of sage brush was easy to understand. Spontaneous hot spots flaring up, seemingly for no visible reason, was hard to comprehend.

The high winds had gusts of 85 m.p.h. — enough nearly to knock me off my feet.

Fire from my neighbor's side began to come through our mutual fence. Hosing it seemed not to have much effect. Then sounds of explosions began to emanate from the other side of the fence. Not knowing whether the neighbor might have stored something like propane tanks adjacent to the fence, I decided to back off.

Other fencing had to be extinguished.

Back to the front of the house — juniper bushes were on fire, literally up to my front porch.

A whole set of trees on the street side of the house were ablaze. The high wind gusts were more sustained now. It seemed that the fire was creating its own wind. The thick smoke suddenly turned into a wall of flame, licking at the side of the house. (And singeing the hair on my face, head and the backs of my hands.)

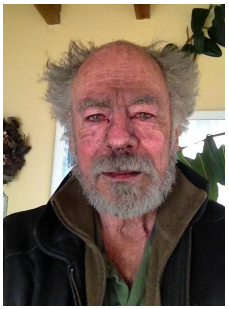
The wind and fire storm passed on through the valley, leaving behind raging fires in its wake.

Persistence with hoses, dousing burning bushes, trees and hotspot flare-ups finally contained further advance around the house.

Gone were a couple of dozen trees, a couple of hundred feet of fence, but no structural damage.

Serendipitously, I had contracted a painter to paint my house. He was willing to do the job in the winter, as this year's winter wasn't much of a problem. The south facing wall of the house was significantly weather worn. A mere three days before the fire, he had finished water pressure treatment, priming and painting that south wall. Though I may have stopped things in their advance toward the house, had that wall not been treated, those flames brushing the deteriorating, dried-out siding almost certainly would have caught on.

The explosions that I mentioned came from two gas powered go-carts, a gas lawn mower and a gas weed cutter. Though the neighbor has stone walls around his home, he chose to store questionable things against the wooden fence. Some of the dozen or so explosions apparently came from wheels on the go-carts going off in the fire. The advance of the fire into my back yard burned down a stand of trees adjacent to where the painter had kept his ladders. The ladders were all reduced to aluminum slag.



After things had abated somewhat, Mary found me and burst out laughing, asking, "Have you looked in a mirror lately?"

"No, I've been too busy, " I said. She asked for my phone to take a picture. I really looked like a destitute homeless person in the picture, worse, perhaps.

Thankfully, we didn't actually become homeless. Five homes in our neighborhood of fifty residences burned completely to the ground. Twenty-four more further north after the fire raged through Pleasant Valley.

Someone once asked why, when I was much younger, I hadn't taken advantage of the opportunity to transfer from the police department to the fire department. It was never my style. On reflection, I would much rather take my chances chasing *low-lifes* over backyard fences or across roof tops than I would running across the roof of a burning building.

Fires have their spooky reputation for a reason.

Meanwhile, though I'm not Irish, I'll be expressing thankfulness this St. Patrick's month.

A video from across Little Washoe Lake shows the extent of the fire as it advanced through the neighborhood. A once elegant, hacienda-style home (white, stucco siding, red tile roof) is shown moments before it was never again to be seen, one of the five lost.

Visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCsRTsAh3_c&feature=related ■

Washoe Drive Fire

- 3700 acres burned.
- 29 homes destroyed
- More than 10,000 people evacuated
- More than 400 firefighters fought the blaze.

Notes from Your ExComm

- Northern Nevada Mensa regular monthly meeting was held 2/11/12 at Famous Dave's restaurant.
- Presentation by Richard Arbib on how to publish your novel
- After presentation LocSec McAllister called for an ExComm meeting.
- Present were: Bob McAllister, LocSec; Ken Wright, 1st Vice-Secretary; Gerry Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; Anna Wright, *Neva-Mind Editor*; and joined in progress by Richard Arbib, Programs Chair.
- Unofficial welcome was given to Ken Wright as new member (1st Vice-Secretary) as election results have not been handed in by election officer Barbara Day.
- Attempts to reach Ms. Day during the meeting were unsuccessful and will continue. Given the unopposed nature of all positions, we shall continue to function with the understanding that results will be entered into record as soon as available.
- Election timing and compliance with bylaws and operation in accordance with national policy on election was brought up by McAllister and agreement by all present to hold elections earlier so as to complete the process before 1 January of the next year. No formal motion was made as this is already in our bylaws.
- Latest membership numbers and discussion on welcoming and recognizing new members was brought up by K. Wright. He also made a suggestion to hold a new member dinner or luncheon where new members have their meal paid for as a welcome gift and introductions could be made. Brief discussion held. No motion made.
- Information on a new member (name of minor not included here) as a high-school-age member and being a participant in the Moon buggy team possibly may lead to a way to recruit more young people brought up by K. Wright. This lead to further discussion on our attempts to include Davidson Academy students and the problems with their schedules and work loads.
- Report on various tours, job assignments, and status of registration at the 2012 Annual Gathering (AG) made by K. Wright, AG Chair.
- Suggestion made by McAllister to have a more in depth ExComm meeting at the March regular meeting and possibly hold the ExComm before the regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. General agreement was made pending clearance with host Loren MacArthur to arrive early. This task to be handled by McAllister.
- Motion to adjourn by Lockhart, seconded by McAllister. Meeting adjourned.

submitted by K. Wright, 2/12/12

- February 13, 2012 Addendum: Delayed election results have been received from NNM Election Officer, Barbara Day. Elected are Loc Sec: Bob McAllister, 1st Vice-Secretary: Ken Wright, 2nd Vice-Secretary: Gerald Lockhart, and Treasurer: Carole Preisach. Congratulations to the candidates and thank you to Barbara.

Anna Wright, Editor

Happy Birthday!

March



3	**Sandra Hughes**	Truckee
7	**Natalie Sera**	Reno
10	**Corwin Joy**	Reno
12	**Jeffrey Milligan**	Reno
15	**Mark Pipes**	Reno
19	**Toby Tatum**	Reno
20	**Scott Kressmann**	Reno
23	**Brett Boge**	Reno
26	**Dr. William Downie**	Carson City
26	**Donald MacGregor**	Reno

Welcome

And Welcome Back!



Jace Hargrove, Sparks

Judy Dosse, Las Vegas

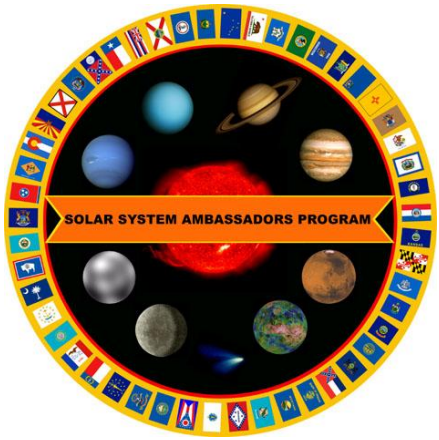
Toby Tatum, Reno

Massimo Balestra, Reno

Willkommen, Bienvenidos, Chaire,
Irashaimasu, Dobro pozhalovat', Bienvenue
Céad míle fáilte!
(One hundred thousand welcomes!)

A Space Nerd Speaks

by Ken Wright



To my fellow Mensans: I would like to proudly announce that I am, as of January 2012, a Solar System Ambassador.

There are lots of jokes available about what that could mean, but I prefer to stick to the program on this one and explain the factual side. So from our official website: http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/index.html I will offer this bit of information:

“The Solar System Ambassadors Program is sponsored by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA, an operating division of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and a lead research and development center for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The Solar System Ambassadors Program is a public outreach program designed to work with motivated volunteers across the nation. These volunteers communicate the excitement of JPL's space exploration missions and information about recent discoveries to people in their local communities.

There are almost 500 Ambassadors in 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico bringing the excitement of space to the public. Ambassadors are space enthusiasts from various walks of life who are interested in providing greater service and inspiration to the community at large.

The Solar System Ambassadors Program builds on and expands the outstanding efforts undertaken by the Galileo mission since 1997. Because of the success of the original Galileo Ambassadors program, JPL missions exploring Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Asteroids, Comets, Earth, the Sun and the Universe now come together to expand the program's scope to the Solar System and beyond.”

===

So, you ask, "What do you bring to this program? You aren't an astronaut or a scientist."

That is true, I am not a technically trained space professional, but what I am, is a communicator.

I bring the ability to convey messages to people who want to know but either don't know where to look, or can't get through all of the extra information to get to what they want to see or hear. Either through writing or speaking, I can and will get the message across.

I have been asked to create and write an Ambassador's column so, "A Space Nerd Speaks" has just been born.

I will attempt to bring you both news of sky events happening in the near future such as:

- March 3. Mars is at opposition. The red planet will be at its closest approach to earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the sun, making this the best chance to view and photograph Mars.
- March 20 will be the vernal or spring equinox. The March equinox occurs at 05:14 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the northern hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the southern hemisphere
- The Lyrid Meteor shower will happen on April 21-23. Tip: look for the constellation Lyra, and good news, it will be new moon time so the sky should be dark.

I will also bring you information on a different ongoing space mission each month from the NASA current missions file. Such as:

ACE or Advanced Composition Explorer, which has been serving us since launch on August 25th of 1997 and should continue to do so until fuel exhaustion in 2024. ACE http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/

How cool is this mission? The question is always asked, why bother going into space? ACE gives us early warning of solar storms and sun flares that can affect our power grid and communications. We have a constant source of input about the particles bombarding us from not only the sun but deep space too! Talk about fuel efficiency; it's been traveling 14 plus years already and is good until 2024! ACE hangs out one million miles from earth and has generated enough data for 635 peer-reviewed papers by the scientists working on this project and over 140 science news items released to the public. There are so many *nerd-tastic* ways that this mission is helping us right now in real time. Just read the information and look at the fabulous photos on the provided link.

You can find me listed on the Solar System Ambassador web site here: http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/profiles/Kenneth_Wright.htm

It may have been Goddard who built the rocket, but it was Jules Verne who gave me the inspiration to think of more than what is already known to be possible. Given the idea, the plan will surely follow and what was once considered fantasy becomes the next reality, because we can do anything once the spark is lit.

From Jules Verne to Goddard, with assists from believers like John F. Kennedy, and great steps from Neil Armstrong, John Glenn and so many others, with the insistence of Stephen Hawking and guidance from science hero Neil deGrasse Tyson, we are going forward to light the way.

Ken

Puzzle Page

by Travis McCord

Sorry about missing the puzzle submission last issue, I was on a long trip. I went to Chicago, swung by Boston, went down to Alabama and over to Kansas... went all over America, really. Next time around I might go to Europe, specifically Berlin. But in any case, not submitting a puzzle last time around means I've kinda' got a backlog of answers. And since the *Neva-Mind* is perennially strapped for space, this time around I'm just providing the answers — and letting you supply the questions. These are the answers to a mix of smart-ass questions and things you've probably wondered about. (The subject is provided to assist.)

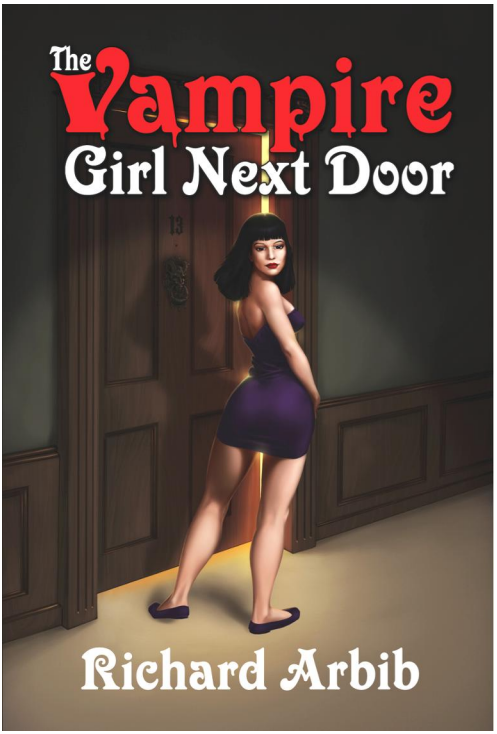
1. Language: Oll Korrect. It's a remnant of a fad for comical abbreviations in newspapers of the 1830s.
2. Music: It's about a guy telling a bartender about the girl he's about to travel home to meet. There are no bad words or sexual situations in it at all.
3. Food: Because butchers like even pounds — they're typically 1/10 of a pound each — while bakers hate multiples of 5 since you can't divide them easily.
4. Music: It's a mutation of the Zulu word "uyimbube", "You are a lion".
5. Products: First they blast the pan with an abrasive so that there are gazillions of tiny scratches. Then they put in a "primer", which is the same as the regular coating but is thin enough that it can get a mechanical hold on the scratches. Then they put on the main coat, which sticks to itself just fine.
6. Philosophy: Depends on how you define it... if it's just the vibration, then yes, but if it's how the vibration is interpreted, then no.
7. Engineering: The FAA's standard answer is "Because the interstates aren't wide enough." (They get it a lot.)
8. Music: It's French for "Do you want to lie down with me tonight".
9. Government: It makes more sense when you realize they're referring to inside the *country*.
10. Food: They use a specific bacteria to load it with lactic acid for a specific time to get the flavor right, then chill it to halt the ripening process... but they can't eliminate all the bacterial action, so it'll still spoil after a time.
11. Traditions: They're both fertility symbols, which relates to what the celebration originally was.
12. Chemistry: Because it needs to mix with air and dry to stick.
13. History: Short version: 754-786 Ab Urbe Condita (give or take about 6 years.)
14. Law: It's part of an imperfect system mandated by law to allow handicapped access to everything. Then again, they could always do it from the rear-left seat, and memorize the way their usual ones work.

15. Language: Here it means “referring to civilians”, who are going to be caught up in it one way or another.
16. History: Two reasons: one, their headphones were in them; two, they may have a rough flight before getting there, and possibly hit their head on the canopy.
17. Literature: Later he said it was “Because it can produce a few notes, tho they are very flat; and it is nevar put with the wrong end in front!”, but originally there was no answer.
18. Music: “Tin roof rusted”
19. Products: It’s actually mineral oil... in this case, the name refers to its use rather than its source.
20. Psychology/Law: It does help by bringing the vessels to the surface, plus there’s always the possibility it’ll be called off. The main reason is probably so the guys doing it can think of themselves as guys doing a job rather than … you know.
21. Philosophy: (Face the questioner and silently thrust one hand forward)

BONUS QUESTION: What’s the rationale for my trip itineraries?

Answers on page 22.

Support your fellow Mensans: *Novel by Richard Arbib*



Mark falls in love with Sylvia, the beautiful, but quirky girl next door, not realizing that she’s a vampire who killed his last neighbor.

When Mark first meets Sylvia, he tells her, “You’re the girl of my dreams!”

Sylvia smiles and responds with a warning — “Be careful what you wish for.”

“Alternately eerie and funny, the book is a blend of genres written to captivate readers on multiple levels.” — from the publisher’s press release.

Available for sale online at Amazon.com and other channels, as well as the author’s website: www.thevampiregirlnextdoor.com



Program Listing

by Richard Arbib

Mensa Meeting: Saturday, March 10

When: Potluck dinner at **6 p.m.** followed by speaker at 7 p.m.

Where: at the home of Loren MacArthur, 6240 Stone Valley Drive, Reno.

Speaker: Bill Kositzky

Bill Kositzky is a 6-year veteran of the Burning Man festival and a frequent contributor of photographs for the *Neva-Mind*. Bill will present a photo slide show with a talk about some of his experiences at Burning Man 2011. Playa attire optional.

Directions:

Phone: (775) 746-2938

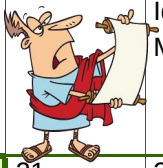
Go west on Interstate 80 past West McCarran. Take the Robb drive exit from I-80 and drive north till you get to Mae Anne Ave. Go left (west) on Mae Anne for two blocks. Take a right on Stone Valley Drive. Her house is on the right just a few doors up from Mae Anne.



Lunch Bunch: March 27. Foley's Irish Pub is the luncheon scene for March. It's at 3655 S. Virginia St. in Reno.
Contact Laura or Don at 826-5904.

On the second Sunday of every month, American Mensa's online community hosts **Community Symposi-Ms**, our virtual symposium series, and all Mensa members are welcome! Participation is easy but the opportunity to obtain new knowledge and perspectives could be profound. On March 11 Community Symposi-M will be on "Making Matter Come Alive" by Lee Cronin. Dr. Cronin, a chemist, is investigating the emergence of complex self-organizing chemical systems or "inorganic biology." In this course, he argues that we can define inorganic life using Darwinian concepts and that the creation of such inorganic life is possible. To prepare for this Symposi-M, watch the 15-minute video at http://www.ted.com/talks/lee_cronin_making_matter_come_alive.html.

March 2012

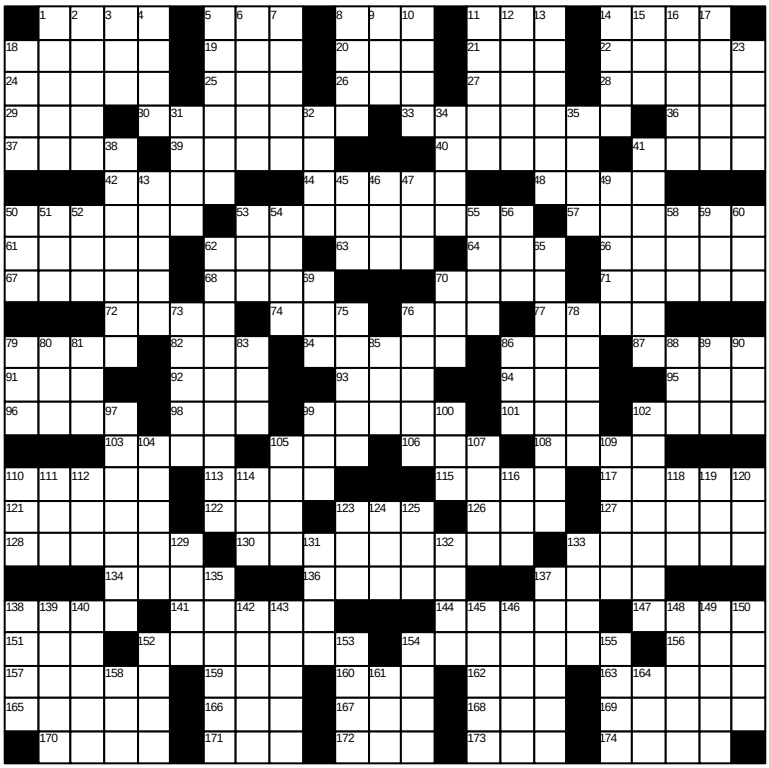
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Game Night at Joe's Place: Saturday, March 3. 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Potluck. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks. Contact: Joe (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.				1	2	3 Game Night at Joe's
4	5	6	7	8 Jewish Purim	9	10 Mensa Meeting
11 Daylight Saving Time begins 		13	14 	15 Ides of March	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 
18	19	20 Supper Club & Spring Equinox	21	22	23	
25	26	27 Lunch Bunch	28	29	30	31
April 1 April Fool's Day 	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7 Game Night at Joe's

Supper Club: March 20. Coach's Barbecue, Fun and funky new location (used to be Wendy's), 1825 Silverada Blvd., Sparks
Contact Anne maytheroad@gmail.com

Ready, Set, Go, Iditarod!

(Alaskan event begins March 3.)

by Anna Wright



© 2012 by Anna M. Wright

ACROSS

1 Collar
5 Pace (abbr.)
8 Cooking measure (abbr.)
11 Pressure unit (abbr.)
14 Exited
18 Home of Fjords National Park
19 Wing
20 Shade
21 Dog days mo.
22 "Love" (Italian style)
24 Hydrochloric and sulfuric, for example
25 Ewe's mate
26 Choose
27 He was shot in a poem by 33-a (McGrew)
28 Net
29 Gnawer
30 Rangifer tarandus
33 "Cremation…" poet
36 Topper
37 Alliance of 12 nations with HQ in Vienna
39 Benefactor
40 Chompers
41 Cheats
42 Afresh
44 Linked rope
48 Royalty
50 Buck's author
53 "Golden Stairs" feature carved in the snow, ice and rock by miners in Chilkoot Pass
57 Shred (2 wds.)
61 Proprietor
62 Bro.'s sibling
63 Heavens
64 Beg
66 Critical
67 Dales
68 Opaque gem
70 Moral corruption
71 Flax fabric
72 Asian ox
74 Caviar
76 Not well at all
77 Docile
79 Plateau
82 Globe
84 Eskimo language for "coat"
86 Metric wt. unit
87 Baseball's Nolan
91 Common winter sport
92 Lyric poem
93 "To the right!"
94 Expression of surprise
95 Self
96 Time in office
98 Digit
99 Time long ago
101 Dozen
102 Common winter sight
103 Island
105 Lager
106 Silent
108 Furrow
110 Music genre
113 Object of desire for 100,000 who came between 1897 and 1899
115 Bass horn
117 sod
121 Arrogate

122 Actor
123 With 144-a, he was cremated in a poem by 33-a
126 Midnight "sight"
127 Regress
128 National park
130 Home of the Alaska Nanooks
133 Evening party
134 Chap
136 70's music genre
137 Smirch
138 Baggage
141 Hand lotion brand
144 With 123-a
147 Bang down
151 Frazier's foe (Thrilla' in Manila)
152 ___ College in southeastern Indiana
154 Sees
156 To be in debt
157 Vex (2 wds.)
159 Tint
160 Maturity
162 Promissory note
163 Floral leaf
165 Canadian neighbor
166 Dashed
167 Auto
168 Chinese seasoning
169 Native Alaskan
170 Record
171 Height (abbr.)
172 Chick holder
173 Legume
174 Bird's home

DOWN

1 Review
2 Link
3 Craze
4 Royal treasury
5 Northernmost U.S. city
6 Simple
7 Cuban dance
8 Biblical "you"
9 Eat
10 Domestic friends
11 Chaplain
12 Debonair
13 Kindle
14 Tardy
15 Flightless bird
16 Seward's purchase to some
17 Spring flower
18 Corn syrup brand
23 Cincinnati baseball team
31 City in Yemen
32 Sea animal
34 Gas burner
35 Converse
38 Brilliant flourish in an aria
41 Origin of 154-d
43 Scandinavian
45 Possessive pronoun
46 Boat
47 Frosty
49 Domain
50 Record
51 Night bird
52 Dir. Kodiak to Valdez
53 Drink slowly
54 Despot
55 Jib
56 Keyboard button
58 Bolt
59 Southwestern Indian
60 Compose
62 Nickname for miner/ explorer
65 Gateway to the Misty Fjords National Monument
69 Sever
70 By way of
73 Kiosk
75 Prominent animal on Alaska quarter
76 BB Player Olajuwan
78 Once more
79 Denver time
80 Stretch to make do
81 Title of respect
83 Hive dweller
85 Crimson
86 Most
88 Japanese shekel
89 Past
90 Present
97 Docking place
99 Ancient
100 Eccentric
102 Bering or Peril
104 Pippin
105 __ mater
107 Strong perfume
109 Traditional native abode
110 Pal
111 Dir. 5-d to Deadhorse
112 Roll
114 Klutz
116 Vehicle
118 Rainy mo.
119 Dir 130-a to Valdez
120 Meet
123 __ Lanka
124 Exercise targets
125 Apple's apple
129 Peruvian Indian
131 Unmoving
132 Last stop on the Iditarod
133 Iditarod necessity
135 Local biome
137 Sea animal
138 Artful
139 Native Alaskan
140 In Tlingit, it's name means "People on the outside of Shee"
142 Princely
143 Occurrence
145 Ape
146 Water bird
148 Yoga position
149 Expect
150 Thaw
152 Sharpen
153 Iditarod, essentially
154 Result of calving
155 Gyrate
158 Summit
161 Joke
164 Dir. Kodiak to Juneau

Answers on page 23





Listen

Touch

Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum:
490 S. Center Street, Reno, (775) 786 - 1000 http://www.nvdm.org/



Look

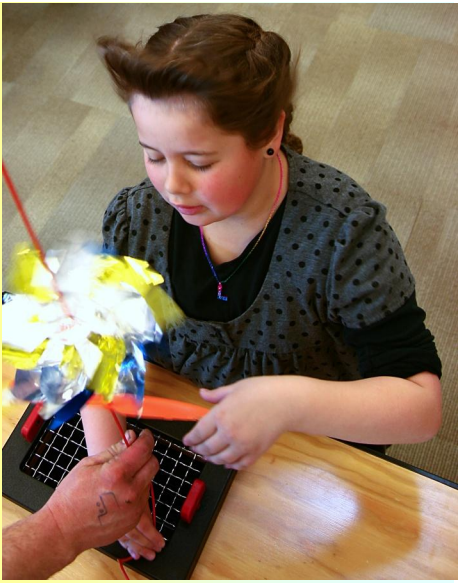


Build

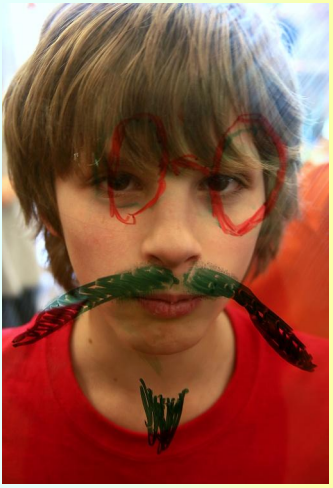
Discover







Try





Climb

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."
— Benjamin Franklin



Explore

Have Fun!

Mensa for Kids!

(and kids at heart) by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

Parents and Teachers,



Mensa For Kids' "**Bright**" is the smartest free monthly eNewsletter for kids ages 6-10, brought to you by "Mensa for Kids" and the Mensa Education & Research Foundation!

Every issue is full of fun games, puzzles, activities and factoids specially selected to encourage children to learn, explore and think outside the box. Regular features include games of logic, math, spatial relations and word usage; science features; activity ideas and "edutainment" programs; and feature stories courtesy of the Mensa For Kids Web site (http://www.mensaforkids.org) and the Mensa Foundation (http://www.mensafoundation.org).

It's easy for all your favorite young people to subscribe. Current members can subscribe via our Web site at http://www.us.mensa.org/enewsletters, and nonmembers can visit http://www.mensaforkids.org/bright and follow the links under "Bright Newsletter" (parental permission for nonmembers under 13 is required!). The most current 90 days of issues are available on both sites, and PDFs are also available for download and printing within each email issue. ■





Hover technology. How do they do that? Here's a cool pair of websites about the newest advances:
http://youtu.be/Ws6AAhTw7RA
http://youtu.be/VyOtIsnG71U

Ever wonder what happens in the bookstore after everyone goes home? You might be surprised, even laugh! Check out this link:
http://www.i-am-bored.com/bored_link.cfm?link_id=67305

Link thanks to Anne Stewart



GRAFFITI WALL

These designs are taken from real vanity plates. Can you decode the messages?

Anna Wright

























Answers on page 23





Double your fun! The Annual Gathering and Colloquium are presented together in Reno beginning July 3.

Oregon Mensa Presents:

Oregon Mensa BeaveRG XIV, May 4, 5, 6, 2012

Red Lion Inn, 1021 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232

(503) 235-2100

Contact: W. Brewster Gillett, RG Chair

Stephen Darnell, Registrar

Things to Do... Places to Go.



CultureQuest®

Northern Nevada Mensa: Get Your Game On!

Every year, teams from all over the country compete in Mensa's Culture Quest®. Every team takes the same quiz at the same time. We'll meet on the afternoon of April 29, right here at home. The test takes about an hour and a half. Sign up now! For more info, contact Anna:

editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

You Can Help the Mensa Foundation (And, it's very, very easy!)

Great presentations are winning donations at SlideRocket; help the Mensa Foundation be one of them! The **Mensa Foundation has entered the "Make an Impact"** non-profit presentation contest sponsored by the online software presentation company SlideRocket. The four 501(c)(3) organizations whose presentations get the most views and have the best story, composition and impact will each receive $5,000.

All you have to do to help the Foundation win free money is visit this link and view the 25-slide presentation:

http://portal.sliderocket.com/BAGSO/Mensa-Foundation

The contest is going on now; presentation views will be counted through March 28, when winners will be announced.

This is an easy, quick (and free) way to support the Mensa Foundation's educational efforts including the scholarship programs, gifted youth activities and the Conversations with Mensa podcast series, not to mention its numerous awards programs that recognize researchers, educators and Mensa members every year. So invest some time in the Foundation today, then forward the link to your interested friends.

I did! It takes less than 5 minutes. C'mon; can you spare 5 minutes to help us win?
Anna Wright, Editor

Jill Beckham
Foundation Director
American Mensa Ltd.



April 20, 2012 Herndon, VA
http://mindgames.us.mensa.org

Things to Do... Places to Go.

Puzzle Page Questions:

Many thanks to The Straight Dope (http://www.straightdope.com/columns/archive) for many of these. Also, a shout-out to the late great George Carlin, since a few of these are from his acts.

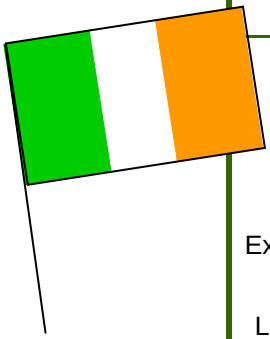
1. What does “OK” stand for?
2. What are the Kingsmen singing in “Louie, Louie”?
3. Why do hot dogs come in packs of ten while buns come in packs of eight?
4. What does the refrain “A-wimoweh” mean in “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”?
5. If Teflon doesn’t stick to anything, how do they make it stick to the pan?
6. If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?
7. If an airplane’s black box can survive a crash, why don’t they make the whole plane out of that stuff? (The implication being it would be too heavy to fly.)
8. What’s that French phrase in the chorus of “Lady Marmalade”?
9. Why is the US Department of the Interior in charge of everything outside?
10. Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?
11. Why does the Easter Bunny leave eggs when bunnies don’t lay eggs?
12. Why doesn’t glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
13. What year did Jesus think it was? (using the Roman calendar because they enforced its use for administration purposes.)
14. Why do drive-up ATMs have Braille?
15. How exactly can you have a “Civil War”?
16. Why did kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
17. Why is a raven like a writing desk? (From “Alice in Wonderland”)
18. What does the girl yell near the end of the B-52s song “Love Shack”?
19. If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?
20. When they’re about to execute someone by lethal injection, why bother to swab his arm with alcohol?
21. What is the sound of one hand clapping?

Bonus Question: Each destination is also the name of a musical group.

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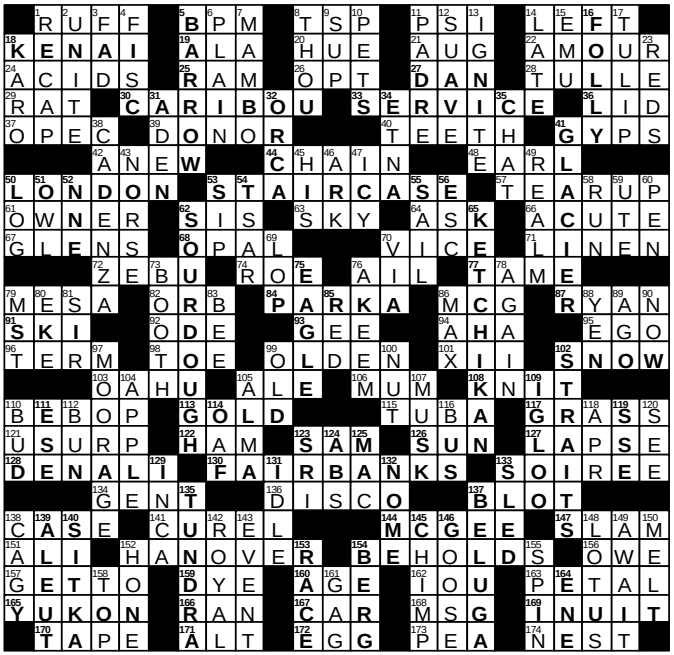
Éirinn go Brách
(Ireland forever!)



Mensa-Speak *What are we saying?*

AG	Annual Gathering (Conference)
AMC	American Mensa Committee (National Elected or Appointed Officers)
AML	American Mensa Ltd. (National Office Employees)
ExComm	Executive Committee (Local Elected Officers)
LDW	Leadership Development Workshop
LocSec	Local Secretary (Local President)
M/Ms	Mensans
MERF	Mensa Education & Research Foundation
MIL	Mensa International Ltd.
NNM	Northern Nevada Mensa
PRP	Publication Recognition Program
RG	Regional Gathering (Conference)
RVC	Regional Vice-Chair
SIG	Special Interest Group
SIGHT	Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers
WG	World Gathering (Conference)

Ready, Set, Go, Iditarod! answers:



Mensa for Kids!

Vanity Plates:

(not in order)

Energy
Smile
“Use the force.”
Tomatoes
“Make it so, Number 1”
Goldilocks
Any one for tea?
Potatoes
Excuse me
“G’Day mate!”
Now you see me
Now you don’t

American Mensa Ltd.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6013

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PLEASE DELIVER
PROMPTLY TO:



Check us out at: **http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/**

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