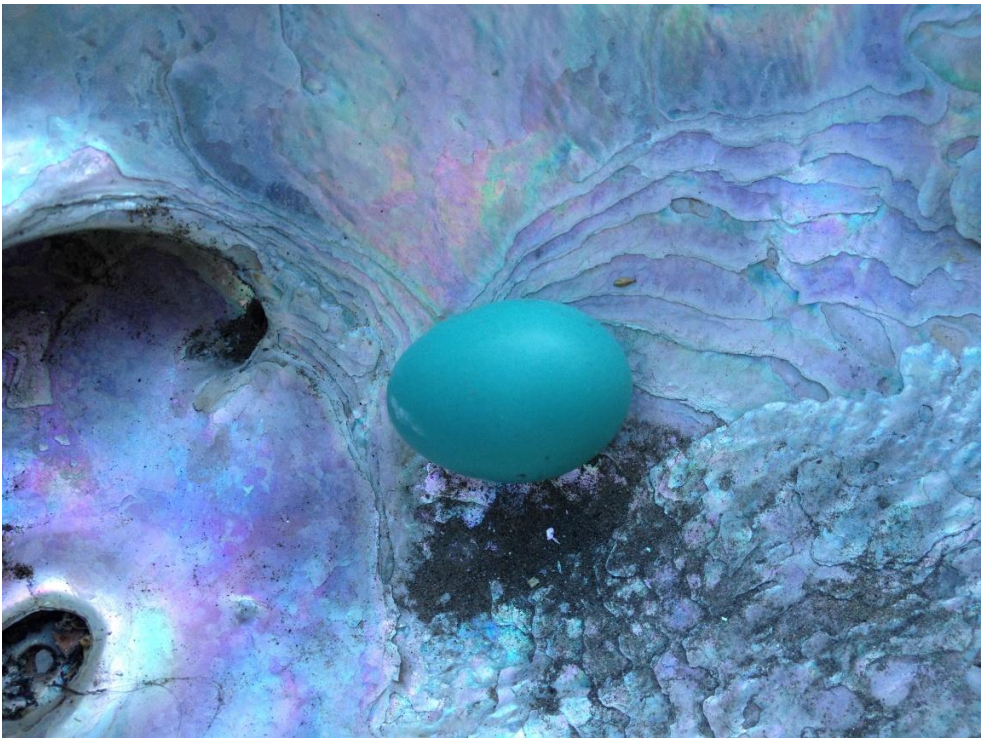
NEVA-MIND





Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 37, Issue 9, September 2013

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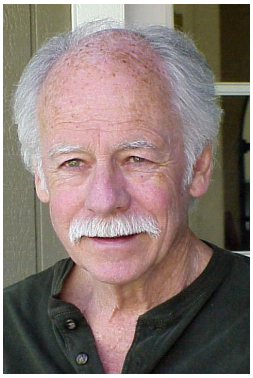
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HISTORIAN
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Cover Credits: *Bob McAllister*
Robin's nest. The shell is abalone, nearly seventy years old.

From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister



This month's *Mensa Bulletin* addresses language. I'm fond of languages and thought that I'd write an addendum to the *Bulletin*'s theme here. That some would regard that I speak Russian, German and Spanish in addition to my native English as an accomplishment should not really be considered anything of note. At least not in most other countries. And, still, knowing other languages has its rewards.

I joined the service right out of high school. I didn't know what to do with my future and was generally pretty naïve. No money to go on to college (my father took off when I was twelve, leaving my family destitute, and I never saw him again), if I even knew what courses I should follow.

Once in the Air Force, tests were given. Aptitude tests. If you did well in the preliminary tests, they then gave a language aptitude test. Acing them wasn't a problem. I was asked what language I might like to study. Wow! They were going to pay me to learn a language! I picked Russian from a variety of offered choices. Then they asked whether I'd like to attend Columbia University in New York or the Presidio in California. Heh. My home was in San Francisco. No brainer. The course was excellent.

(I recall a set of Russian language teachers who were parents of a three-year-old girl. Russian was spoken at home. Their daughter's friends were English-speaking Americans. The parents were aghast when they heard their daughter one day ask, "Chto ehto dlya?"("What (is) this for?")

"No! You can't end a sentence with a preposition. It makes no sense and is harsh to the (trained) ear. It should be 'Dlya chevo ehto?'" ("For what (is) this?") With the requisite noun declension. Americans will understandably ask what a noun declension is. Once upon a time it wouldn't have been a mystery. We just haven't done it for a very long while. (It's still done in German.) Another teacher's last name was Trembel'velskiy. He explained that his family had been around for a long time and had been involved in many battles. After each successful battle engagement, a letter was added to the family name. Such affable humor endeared him to us students.

Having taught me Russian, the Air Force sent me to Germany for a three-year vacation in Europe.

My job with the Air Force Security Service was to garner intelligence for the National Security Agency (NSA.) Yes, that NSA of recent media repute. While I was engaged in intelligence gathering endeavors, an unsavory incident with international ramifications occurred. Two gay men, working in the State Department, felt deeply slighted. They also were privy to sensitive secret information.

(Continued on page 4)

(LocSec continued from page 3)
They defected to Russia. They told the Soviets (and, in turn, the rest of the world) what we (the U.S.) were doing. (Ironically, the two went beyond the ignominy of becoming irrelevant to what is still happening in the former Soviet Union — completely gone, disappeared because of being gay.)

They said (divulged):

- You know, England, Germany, France (and many others), your machinery was manufactured by the U.S. in a manner that came to be known as a "red herring."
- What passed for a computer at that time had moving parts. A wheel for a German "computer" had a diameter of perhaps 3.65 centimeters. A "wheel" for the British 'computers' had a diameter of 3.66 centimeters. For the French, a diameter of 3.634 centimeters — and so on. Encrypted information could be sorted to reveal what was secretly being sent due to those minor differences unknown to them, but known to us.
- The military observations of the Soviets were alerted, revealing that we knew when and where a nuclear test would occur.
- The defectors revealed that we knew what the Soviets' counterpart to our Strategic Air Command was doing, how it was staffed, how it prepared for unforeseen eventualities., and where their radar stations were set to intercept the enemy westerners (they culturally were/are very paranoid. Sometimes with good reason), how those stations relocated themselves, and to which radio frequencies they frequently changed.
- What dignitaries were being sent to different parts of the vast Soviet Union. Why and when.

Those two sold all of this for personal gain and overnight all of our painstakingly established tracking programs disappeared. Overnight, and we encountered total silence. This was at the height of the Cold War. The information the two defectors disclosed was considerable and so we, the U.S., were pretty much left uncomfortably vulnerable until recovery efforts were developed. In present day terms, this sounds kind of similar with respect to current, unauthorized disclosures. Likely most "intel" is garnered via satellites or drones.

I remember listening to Lithuanian operators of radar installations. They made idle chatter in Lithuanian and stern Russian controllers would admonish, "Russian only!" The Baltic operators, one New Year's Eve, apparently had been partying and one began whistling "The Beer Barrel Polka" to which other operators began joining in, whistling and singing, which incurred the wrath of their Russian supervisor — it was apparent that the Lithuanians didn't care much for their overlords.

(Continued on page 25)

International Puzzle Party *by Joe Kisenwether*



I attended the International Puzzle Party (IPP) in August. One of the highlights of my trip was the Hanayama Puzzle World Chamionship. On Sunday, July 28, my companion and I traveled to the Akihabara district of Toyko on the way to the Hanayama company headquarters.

For thirty years, Hanayama has been making disentanglement puzzles with cast metal pieces that interlock in interesting ways. A puzzler's job is to disassemble these pieces.

There were sixteen competitors, drawn from Japan MENSA and a select group of puzzle experts from the IPP. In front of each puzzler was a timer which measured the solving time down to the 1000th/second. In order to stop the timer, the puzzler must have the puzzle completely disassembled and place both hands back on the timer.

As the first set of four competitors took their places, the puzzle for round 1 was revealed, and there was a collective "Aahh..." from the audience. It was the cast "Baroq," a Hanayama fan favorite, for its pretty artistic look and pleasing solution. It was a well-known puzzle though, and so many competitors were already familiar with it. Several competitors were able to solve it in about 20 seconds.

The fastest eight solvers went on to round 2, and a collective "Ooh..." went up as the puzzle was revealed, the cast "Enigma," one of Hanayama's hardest. The fastest time in this round was about 1:30 minutes and several of the competitors were unable to solve it at all.

The fastest went on to the final round, for which the Hanayama team had prepared a special treat. An unreleased puzzle, the "Cast Cylinder," was to be used. No one would have an advantage from having seen this one before. After a few words from the puzzles inventor, Vesa Timonen, the four remaining competitors began solving furiously. The puzzle was rated at level four, the same level as the "Baroq," but none of the competitors were able to solve it before the 10-minute clock ran out. So the clocks were reset, and then ran out again. It was nearly half an hour from the start of the round before the first solver, Masata Karatani of Japan MENSA, finished the puzzle. In fact, all three of the top finishers were representative of Japan MENSA. Masat won a trophy, the title of Cast Puzzle Speed Solving Champion, and a cash prize. All participants, and spectators went home with a commemorative copy of the final round puzzle. I was able to get it apart in about two days. I haven't yet been able to put it back together. ■



Meet a Mensan *by Ashley Cullins*

Meet **Kelly Smith,** a Mensa member since 2012.

Favorite quote:

"For every thousand hacking at the leaves of evil, there is one striking at the root."

Henry David Thoreau

What talent would you most like to have?

The ability to bring out the best in other people

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Switzerland or the Ruby Mountains near Elko

What is always in your refrigerator?

Milk

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what's the one thing you would bring?

A Book of Mormon

What words or phrases do you most overuse?

"totally stupid" and "curses"

Who is your real-life hero?

Joseph Smith and Brigham Young (I can't decide between the two) ■

Northern Nevada Mensa wishes to thank

Grassroots Books

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Reno, NV 89502
(775) 828-2665

For donating their space for Mensa Admissions Testing.

Thanks!

Show this paragraph for a free unstickered book. More than 10,000 to choose from, any genre. Limit one/person from any promotion in a calendar year.



GrassrootsBOOKS





September

2	**Melvin Silvester**	Reno
4	**Frank Gentile**	Reno
4	**Walter Ratchford**	Carson City
5	**Colin Hodgen**	Reno
6	**Robert Klein**	Verdi
11	**Sam Kumar**	Reno
12	**Veronica Davis**	Reno
12	**Lawrence Moore**	Reno
13	**John Kush**	Carson City
14	**Nicolas Aguilera**	Reno
22	**William Neeld**	Sparks

Welcome and Welcome Back!

Leo Leighton Winnemucca

Kevin Mancuso Sparks

Willkommen,
Bienvenidos,
Irashaimasu,
Dobro pozhalovat',
Chaire,
Bienvenue!



Mensa Dollar Days Special! Do you know someone who should be in Mensa? Now through September 15, take the online Mensa Home Test for just *ONE DOLLAR!* plus receive 45% off the price of the official Mensa Admissions Test too. Simply print off the receipt and bring it in to your nearest testing session in the month of October and pay only $22 (regularly $40).

Access the home test at www.us.mensa.org/MHT (one per test taker).

Fingerprint Security

by Mark G. Simkin



To verify your identity, you can prove it's you by (1) what you know (e.g., your password or date of birth), (2) what you have (e.g., your driver's license or employee card), or (3) what you are (e.g., your fingerprints or palm print). Biometric security refers to authentications based upon this last category. "Passive biometric systems" include fingerprints, iris scans, or retina scans, while "active biometric systems" include speech and signature recognition.

Biometric security systems work well for security assurance because the biometric markers on which they depend are themselves unique to their owners. Fingerprint identification is by far the oldest of these, and both ancient Chinese and later Persian government agencies used fingerprints to authenticate the participants of important legal transactions. The fingerprints of no two individuals are alike, and even identical twins have unique sets of them.



Figure 1

The earliest western use of fingerprints was in July 1858, by the Englishman Sir William James Herschel, a magistrate in India. On a whim, Sir William started requiring locals to impress their full handprints on official contracts (Figure 1). His hope was to frighten local businessmen "out of all thought of repudiating their signatures." The idea worked so well as a deterrent that it quickly became standard practice. The first criminal use of fingerprint identification occurred in 1892, when a Croatian-born Argentinean named Juan Vucetich successfully used a bloody fingerprint to prove that a woman had murdered her own sons.

To me, the most interesting dimension of fingerprint identification is the science of converting fingerprints into digital files that computers can use for authentication purposes. The process begins by identifying the unique patterns of a fingerprint — the arches, whorls, loops, ridge end points, and ridge bifurcations — that create a unique print (Figure 2). Fingerprinting systems then extract these "minutiae" from the image and use them to create a digital template of the finger-

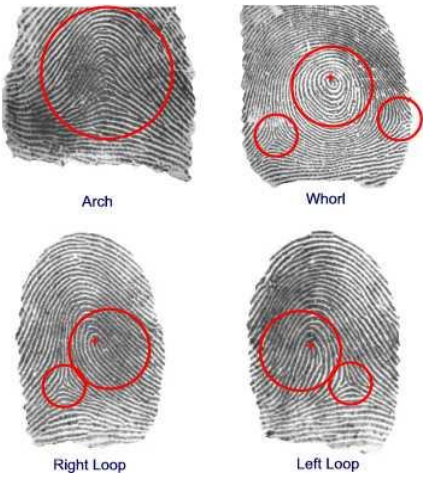


Figure 2

print (Figure 3). A security system can then compare templates from subsequent readings with the original one to authenticate or reject applicants.

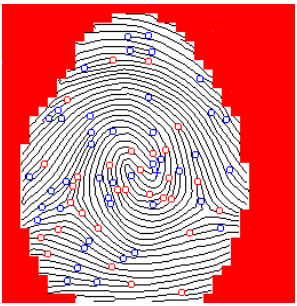


Figure 3

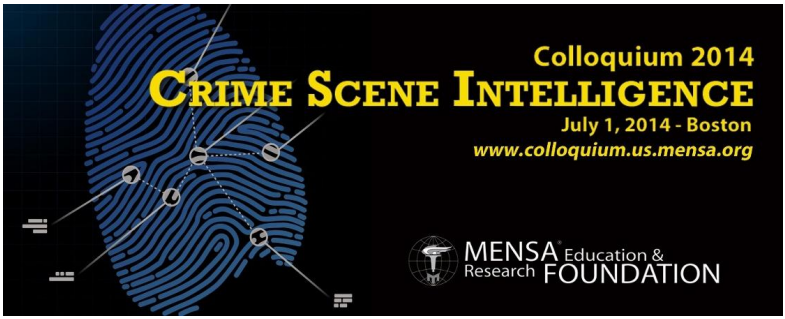
Because of differences in ambient light, electrical field strength, user pressure, or viewing angle, a current fingerprint reading rarely matches its enrolled template. The challenge for any fingerprinting system is therefore to determine when a reading is "close enough." Here, and like other biometric systems, fingerprint systems must balance two important error rates: (1) the false reject rate (FRR) when the system fails to match a fingerprint to a legitimate template on file, and (2) the false acceptance rate (FAR) when the system incorrectly concludes that a scanned print matches one on file.

Bona fide users hate rejections because the system denies them access to important computer files or other sensitive items despite the user's legitimacy. But, business managers hate false acceptances even more because any false acceptance potentially "lets the fox into the henhouse." This is why iris and retinal scans are superior biometric systems — both their FRRs and FARs are substantially lower than those of fingerprinting systems.

If eye scans are superior, then why are fingerprinting systems by far the most popular form of biometric security today? I can answer that question in one word: "convenience." Those alternate systems require you to sit still for a reading — a figurative and perhaps literal pain in the neck.

For further reading: "The History of Fingerprints" can be found at http://onin.com/fp/fphistory.html, and "How Fingerprint Scanners Work" can be found at http://computer.howstuffworks.com/fingerprint-scanner5.htm.

Mark G. Simkin is a professor of Information Systems at the University of Nevada, Reno. ■







Ask the Doctor *by Dr. Howard Chen*

Question: I've been considering asking my doctor for the shingles immunization vaccine. I've never heard of someone actually getting the illness. But, the TV commercials seem to imply that people of my age (pre-chickenpox vaccine) are at risk. Is shingles really common or is this just another TV promotion?

Shingles is the common name for a viral infection with varicella zoster (herpes). This is the same infection that causes the “chickenpox”, with which most of us were infected as children. The illness of *shingles* represents a reactivation of a previously dormant varicella virus, from a prior chickenpox infection. This reactivated infection can infect any age group, but is especially prevalent after the age of 50 years, and in those individuals with a compromised immune system. Up to a 1/5 of the population will develop a *shingles* infection at some point in their life.

A *shingles* infection generally presents as abnormal sensations (*paresthesias*), which may be experienced as numbness, tingling, itching, or burning pain in a one-sided, band-like distribution, generally on the trunk or buttock, but occasionally involving the head or genitals. Within 2 days of viral reactivation, a painful skin rash and fluid filled blisters develop in the same band-like distribution, which further transform into open sores over 2-3 more days. After 7-10 days, the sores crust over, and become non-infectious. The rash may last for several weeks and upon resolution, may result in permanent hypo- or hyperpigmentation and scarring. Due to their severity, acute *shingles* infections are generally treated with anti-viral medications and narcotic level pain medications.

While a *shingles* infection only lasts a few weeks, about 10-15% of individuals (skewed towards individuals who are over 50 years of age) who are afflicted with *shingles* will develop *Post Herpetic Neuralgia (PHN)*, a persistent inflammation of the skin nerves which is reminiscent of the initial paresthetic pain (tingling, itching, burning, or numbness), and manifests in the same distribution, but without the rash of an acute *shingles* episode. Unfortunately, these paresthesias may take months to years to resolve (if ever!). Further compounding the problem, this type of discomfort does not respond well to conventional pain medications (NSAIDs or narcotics), antiviral medications, or even steroids. Medications that have shown to have some benefit include anti-depressants, anti-seizure medications, and counter irritant creams. Acupuncture may have role in the treatment of *PHN* as well.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that most adults over the age of 60 receive the *shingles* vaccine. The vaccine, trade name *Zostavax*, has shown benefit in decreasing both the incidence and severity of a *shingles* infection, as well as decreasing the likelihood of persistent *PHN*. The vaccine is especially important if you've never contracted the chickenpox or received the chickenpox vaccination. However, even those individuals who have previously been exposed to the chickenpox virus (either in disease or vaccination form), should receive the *Zostavax* due to the natural decline of immunity with age.

In answer to your question, the information presented by the TV about the age related risk of contracting *shingles* is generally correct. Due to the heightened risk of contracting *shingles*, as well as the long lasting consequences of *PHN*, I'd strongly recommend receiving *Zostavax*, the *shingles* vaccination if you're over 60 years of age, or have a compromised immune system.

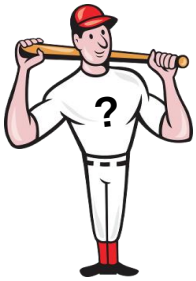
Ask the Doctor yourself: Email editor@northennevada.us.mensa.org

*Dr. Howard Chen is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, a fellow of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture, and Medical Director of Preventive and Integrative Medicine Services at Renown Health, Reno. ■

Strymon-melinus

by Bill Kositzky





Numbers, numbers, numbers… They're every where you go. Did you ever wonder about Interstate Highway numbers, mile marker numbers, and even exit sign numbers? Where do they come from? How are they assigned? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_Highway_System.

And another thing, how are house address numbers decided within a city? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_numbering#Block_numbers. (Psst, according to one of our state troopers, Reno is a non-conformist. Can you figure out why?)

Ideas suggested by Gerald Lockhart. Thanks!

Ah, the new school year. (Dodges thrown objects)
Oh, come on, it's an opportunity to learn new things in a variety of subjects.

The following is a cryptogram in which the letters are replaced with numbers rather than the usual letters. The next section is a series of (letter) = (number) clues culled from a variety of subjects. (The third section is questions about the cryptogram itself... and its author.)

It should be obvious that the number of letter clues you get will determine the difficulty of the cryptogram... but, you can get just a few letter clues and then go through the cryptogram to learn new things! (The punctuation and spacing is intact.)

Good luck...

Cryptogram: (^ is a space):
4 10 47 11 21 16 7,^4 23^31 29 43^37 21 32 32,^47 16^7 32 24 9 12 14 29 16 4 9^17 47 16 9 7^6 29 16 11^21 16 6 13 4 14 24 17^15 31^47^13 6 31 9 20 29 32 29 11 31^7 19 13 24 22 21 10 7 16 12.^29 16^14 47 12 6.

47 9 12 43 47 32 32 31,^31 29 43^17 29 16'12^20 47 54 7^12 29:^47 16^24 19 13 7 14 4 10 24 16 12^21 16^37 20 4 9 20^22 47 12 6^20 47 17^37 21 14 7 6^13 32 47 9 7 17^4 16^12 20 24 4 14^15 22 47 21 16 6'^13 32 7 47 6 43 14 24^9 7 16 12 24 22 6^47 16 17^37 7 14 24^7 32 24 9 12 14 4 9 47 32 32 31^22 7 37 47 14 17 24 17^23 29 14^23 29 32 32 29 37 21 16 11^9 29 10 10 47 16 17 6^37 47 6^12 20 7^4 16 6 13 21 22 47 12 4 29 16^23 29 14^12 20 24^6 29 16 11^"6 12 14 4 9 12^10 47 9 20 21 16 7"^22 24 9 29 14 17 7 17^15 31^11 29 32 17 23 22 47 13 13.^37 20 4 9 20^6 20 29 43 32 17^15 7^29 15 54 4 29 43 6^37 20 24 16^31 29 43^20 7 47 14^12 20 24^32 31 22 21 9 6,^13 47 14 12 4 9 43 32 47 22 32 31^12 20 24^15 14 21 17 11 7^"37 29 16 17 24 22 23 43 32^7 32 24 9 12 14 4 9".

Letter clues:
A = Chemistry: The Atomic number of our state's nickname.
B = Spanish Culture: la niña Bonita.
C = Asian Culture: a good Chinese number (representing the emperor) but a bad Japanese number.
Literature: The number of "ringwraiths" in the *Lord of the Rings.*
D = U.S. Government: Direct election of senators.
Technology: Last of the Apollos.
F = Religion: "The Lord is my shepherd."

Answers on page 26

G = Vocabulary: the number of letters in the word meaning “fear of palindromes”
H = History: The Seventh Amendment to the Constitution says that the right to trial by jury is preserved if the value in question is over this many dollars... score!
I = Biology: the number of nucleobase types in DNA or RNA.
L = Computers: binary 10 0000.
M = Math: the square root of the common log of the common log of a googolplex.
N = History: the number of years over 100 that the “Hundred Years War” lasted.
O = Orbits: number of Earth years in a Saturnian year (rounded down).
P = Astronomy: The number of named Planets in our solar system, regular and dwarf.
S = Quantum Physics: number of “flavors” of quarks in the (current) “Standard model.”
T = Anatomy: Number of cranial nerves in the human body.
U = Chemistry/Physics: The atomic number of the “hole” in the periodic table that wasn’t filled until a cyclotron experiment in 1936.
V = Chemistry: The atomic number of the very first noble gas to form a compound.
W = Literature: William Shakespeare’s known plays (counting *Henry IV* as three parts).
Y = Age of the Youngest Nobel Laureates.
History: California’s State Number (i.e., Delaware=1, Hawaii=50).

19) Meta-Questions:
E = 7 if the cryptogram is about music.
E = 20 if the cryptogram is about a movie.
E = 13 if the cryptogram is about (hard) science.
E = 23 if the cryptogram is about psychology.

20)
R = 14 if the cryptogram is about electronic music, an 80’s movie or planetary physics.
R = 37 if the cryptogram is about evolutionary psych, classic rock music or a 90’s movie.
R = 6 if the cryptogram is about chemistry, sociology or modern pop music.
R = 22 if the cryptogram is about a “classic” movie, quantum physics or psychology involving rats.

21) $\sqrt{\frac{U-H,}{S-o?}}$



22) X = Month + 2-digit year of my first submission. ■

Events and Activities: September

Lunch and Target Shooting, First Tuesday, 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, September 3 11:45 a.m. Lunch at **Flowing Tide Pub**, 465 South Meadow Parkway, #5, Reno. Last month, the target shooting was at Safe Shot and it was so good we're going back this month! **Safe Shot** is an air-conditioned indoor range at 9425 Double R Blvd., Reno, which is also very close to the restaurant for lunch. Bring your own gun(s) or rent one at the range. But don't bring your own ammunition to shoot. As an indoor range, they require we use their ammunition, which they sell. But here's some good news: the prices posted earlier for ammo have been considerably reduced. Here is an updated list: $10 range fee, ammo: $19.99 for .380, $18.99 for 9mm, $21.99 for .38 cal., and $9.99 for .22 cal. Many other calibers available. Prices for ammo based on a box of 50 rounds. $2 for targets, but okay to bring your own. You can bring your own ear protection or get some there. Hope to see you there.

Contact Richard Arbib Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Mensa Admissions Testing: First Saturday from 3-5 p.m.

September 7 at **Grassroots Books**, 660 E. Grove St., Reno.

Contact Mindy Hsu: mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com.

Mensa Program, Second Saturday, 6 p.m.

Contact Richard Arbib Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

September 14: Miniature Golf, Monthly Meeting and Dinner

6 p.m. Miniature Golf at **Magic Carpet Golf**, 6925 S. Virginia Street, Reno. 19-holes costs $8 per person and takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Afterwards, dinner is only a few steps away at **Vivoli Café,** 6795 S. Virginia Street.

Supper Club, Third Tuesday, 6 p.m.

September 17: Bistro 7, 7111 S Virginia St, Reno (851-9463).

Join us for fresh, delicious, and innovative American cuisine in a hip and comfortable setting. Contact Sandra Lackovic at ssmarticle@gmail.com or NNM Facebook group or (631) 398-6393.

Sushi Lovers is cancelled for September.

Lunch Bunch, Fourth Tuesday, 6 p.m.

September 24: Suggested by Mark Pipes, we'll visit the **Red Hut Café** 3480 Lakeside Dr. in Reno. (828-7366) http://www.redhutcafe.com/

Contact Don or Laura MacGregor: 826-5904.

Games at Tahoe returns Saturday, September 28, 6 p.m.

Join us for games at Sandy's place in Incline Village. Bring food and/or drinks to share. Space is limited so please RSVP for address and driving instructions to ssmarticle@gmail.com, NNM Facebook group, or (631) 398-6393.



September 2013

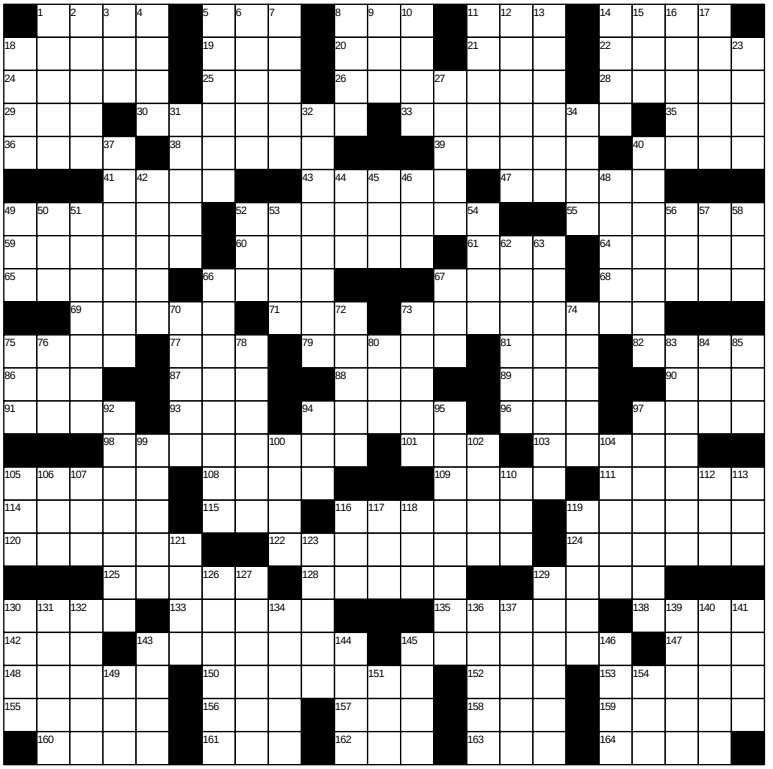


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	**4 Lunch & Target Shooting** Flowing Tide Pub	5	6	**7 Mensa Testing** Grass-roots Books
8	9	10	11	12	13 Jewish Yom Kippur begins	**14 Mensa Program Miniature Golf** Magic Carpet
15	16	**17 Supper Club** Bistro 7 Reno	18 Jewish Sukkot begins	19	20	21
22 Autumnal Equinox	23	**24 Lunch Bunch** Red Hut Reno	25	26 Johnny Appleseed Day	27	**28 Games at Tahoe**
29	30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4	**Oct 5 Mensa Testing** Grass-roots Books



The World Series (#109) is tentatively set to begin on Wednesday, October 23, with Game 7 scheduled no later than October 31, barring weather delays. Based on this year's All-Star game (played on July 16) the American League team will have the home field advantage.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_World_Series



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71 Reno-Tahoe abbr.
73 Surpass
75 Biblical prophet
77 Six-pack site
79 Mischievous
81 Stale
82 Matching
86 Hertz
87 Nothing
88 Stylist stuff
89 1983 hit for Duran Duran
90 Hand tool
91 Formal "you"
93 Wildebeast
94 Dubbed
96 Pat
97 Front
98 "Righty" half of 60's Dodgers pitching duo

ACROSS

1 Record 5,174 strikeouts
5 Kitten's cry
8 Figure
11 Jay-Z forte
14 "The Georgia Peach"
18 Gossage
19 Network named after a country
20 Wonder
21 To be
22 One of the Titans
24 Grown
25 Farm pen
26 Bombed
28 Didn't smell good
29 Males
30 Investigation school subject
33 Newly born
35 Winter sport
36 With 148-a "Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical."
38 Matisse prop
39 Witless
40 Relish
41 Irk
43 Dine
47 Inscribed stone
49 Dorsal
52 Likens
55 1956 Triple Crown winner
59 Barbershop needs?
60 Portugal's place
61 Rule
64 Petty
65 Big
66 Cause for delay
67 Central points
68 Parlay (2 wds.)
69 Musical tempo
101 Decline
103 Pouter
105 Bicker
108 Classic bad guy
109 Planet
111 Mutiny
114 Weapon
115 Born
116 Desert
119 Repetition
120 Avoid
122 Slaked
124 "The Iron Horse"
125 Rips
128 Growing older
129 Gawk
130 Fence opening
133 Tactic
135 Gem State
138 With 8-d
142 Orioles and Blue Jays in part



 Answers page 27

143 Series of songs
145 Fan behavior
147 Stat
148 With 36-a
150 Undress
152 Court
153 Monastery superior
155 Mist
156 Mo. for the W.S.
157 Positive vote
158 CSI clue
159 Tends
160 Caps
161 Butane
162 Sport's official
163 Longin'
164 Green Gables gal

DOWN

1 Cowboy show
2 Won 511 games as pitcher
3 Silent lang.
4 Earns
5 "The Man" had .331 career BA as Cardinal
6 Painter Richard
7 Batman Bruce
8 With 138-a "The Sultan of Swat"
9 Night bird
10 Pitcher who won 30 games in 1934 for the Cardinals
11 Squeal (2 wds.)
12 Stadiums
13 Intellectual
14 Court suit
15 511 home runs; "Boy Wonder"
16 Indifferent
17 "Mr. Cub"
18 Wild
23 Show
27 Left Bank sight
31 Body parts
32 .414 batting average in '71 W.S.
34 Seethe
37 Snubs
40 Craziest
42 All-time home run king, before Bonds
44 Loan No.
45 Mai __
46 Stat
48 They're silent?
49 Psych. term
50 Legume
51 Insert
52 Formerly headed by Panetta
53 Off-Broadway award
54 Coin machine
56 It'll blow up
57 W.C.
58 Sea eagle
62 Honda product
63 "The Splendid Splinter"
66 #42
67 Gaiety
70 Tart
72 Fish tank growth
73 Lubricated
74 Philippine dish with marinated chicken or pork
75 Feign
76 EPA concern
78 Slushy mass
80 Female (abbr.)
83 Battler
84 __ Jima
85 Padres and Rockies in part
92 Train
94 Braves and Phillies in part
95 56-game hit streak
97 Pole sitter
99 50's Dodger captain; defensive magician
100 Location
102 Surface a road
104 Forum
105 Loose gown worn at mass
106 Manta
107 Econ. calc.
110 Scarlet
112 Eastern address
113 Brain graph (abbr.)
116 Chinese seasoning
117 Yves "yes"
118 Winter mo.
119 Incite (2 wds.)
121 Ump. call
123 Mythical mischief maker
126 Beer brand
127 Mineral found as quartz and opal
129 Buckeye State resident
130 Yaks
131 First letter in Hebrew alphabet
132 __ firma
134 Bird homes
136 Shabby
137 Repent
139 City
140 Blues guitarist Walker
141 Stat usually shown on scoreboards
143 660 career home runs
144 Glide
145 Shallow area
146 Festive
149 Rodent
151 So long
154 Jerry's partner



Diamond Legends

by Anna Wright

Biosphere 2

Biosphere 2 was originally built as a means of studying space colonization. There were two attempts at studying closed environment living (1991,1994) which taught scientists a great deal. The cult classic film *Biodome* (1996) brought the Biosphere to the rest of the world.





Walking above the ocean with coral reef area in an environment which would be consistent with a coastal jungle/forest. The glass wall ahead of the tour separates the ocean from the tropical rainforest.

A look down at the coral reef immersed in real ocean water (complete with all of the usual organisms) taken from the Pacific ocean at San Diego, CA. Rainfall, temperature, wind, and even wave actions are all simulated to mimic the natural environment.





The tropical rainforest occupies the very large glass building that looks like a Mayan pyramid. Within this structure are hundreds of species of plants and a host of now unknown animal species. It will feature prominently in the ongoing experiments to measure the effects of global warming and drought as the rainfall is reduced and/or withheld for specific periods.

Biosphere 2, Oracle, Arizona
Want to find out more?
http://www.b2science.org/
https://www.facebook.com/Biosphere2

by Ken Wright



The dividing wall between the ocean and the mangrove wetlands. Here they have a wave machine and wind generators to create the tides and coastal breezes.



After passing through the savannah grassland area currently being remodeled for the next experiment we arrived at the fog desert. Here they take into account the moisture coming through from the rest of the building while maintaining realistic desert conditions. The deterioration of various rocks and soils are currently under study.

Below the entire complex is an area known as the Technosphere where exists 3.14 acres (a pi plot!) of the machinery it takes to support these environments. During the two closed Biosphere experiments (1991 and 1994) the enclosed crew had to do all of the maintenance and operational adjustments themselves while simultaneously doing the experiments and tending gardens and livestock.



The south lung (variable volume air chamber) is basically a huge bellows with a diaphragm used to maintain air pressure on a closed system. At present it is just a cool stop on the tour. ■



Trivia Question: Where is Biosphere 1?

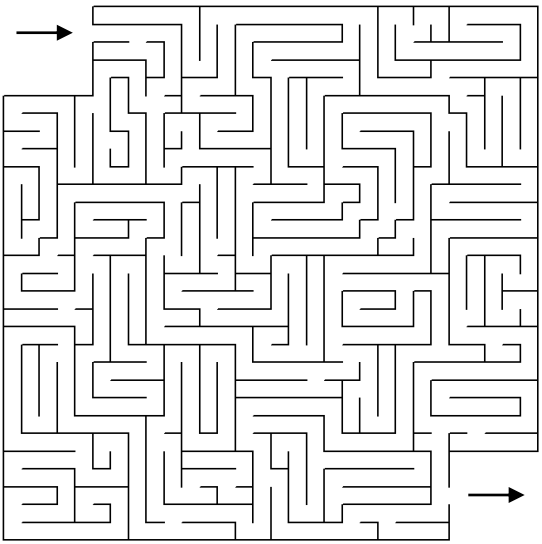
Mensa for Kids! (and kids at heart)

by Julie Kriss and Anna Wright

Here is a word search puzzle about baseball! Find the hidden words within the grid of letters. The letters can go in any direction, including diagonal and backwards.

ball	base hit
bat	catcher
dugout	hitter
home plate	outfield
second base	strike
base	bases loaded
batter	coach
foul ball	homerun
infield	pitcher
shortstop	umpire

M R S S X E R I L L B V W T P
Y E E D T E T L N A L C S U O
B S Z H T R A A S F A A M O T
A A U T C B I E L T I P B G S
S B A O L T S K C P I E R U T
E B K U T L I H E R E S L D R
H D O A O D E P E S Y M O D O
I F B A A R H C A O C B O H H
T O D E S A B D N O C E S H S
D E T M G O U T F I E L D C Q
D H I T T E R Q N U R E M O H

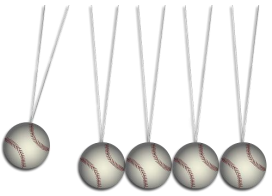


This is a fabulous website which allows you to study and explore more than 30,000 great works of art from different real-world collections like The Art Institute of Chicago or The Tate. GOOGLE ART PROJECT: http://www.googleartproject.com/

Computer Zone!



This website is filled with cool stuff for kids! It is the kid's section of the official website for Smithsonian Education. Check it out! SMITHSONIAN EDUCATION: http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/



Science News for Kids is the elementary and middle school version of the *Science News* magazine site by the Society for Science and the Public. SCIENCE NEWS FOR KIDS http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/

GRAFFITI WALL



Working with machinery can be a big part of someone's job. Do you know what these machines are?



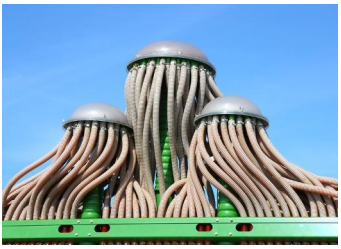
















What is it?



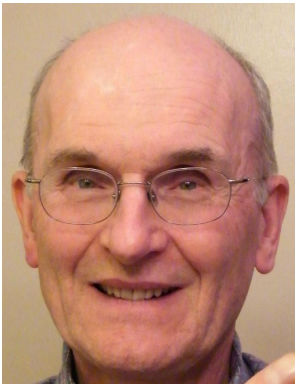


Extra for Experts

What are the six "simple machines"?

Answers on page 25.

From the RVC *Harold Ward*



American Mensa is among the more successful national groups in International Mensa. Nevertheless, it seems to suffer from attrition at a large number of points along the way from the number of Americans who are eligible to join (6 million or so) down to the number of dues-paying members we have.

The following are my guesses and perceptions of where and how we lose most potential members:

About half never hear of Mensa (3 million). About half of the rest don't find out what Mensa is (1.5 million). About half of the rest get the wrong impression that Sheldon Cooper is a typical Mensan and don't think that's a crowd they'd like to hang with (750 thousand). About half of the rest find out enough about Mensa to be interested (375 thousand). About half of them contact Mensa (say 200 thousand). About half of them get into the Mensa prospect tracking system (100 thousand). About half of them sign up for a test (50 thousand). About half of them show up to test (25 thousand). About half pass (12 thousand). Of the half that are invited to join, half don't (6 thousand). Etc.

Okay, so these numbers are probably not exactly the way it is and maybe there are other kinds of attrition (i.e., for smart people who are very busy or who are utterly devoted to a single interest or who are hermetically sealed in an intellectually stimulating environment, etc.). In any case, we have, especially among the larger numbers lost, a huge opportunity to expand and extend our membership and its diversity. So how can we get the word out, correct the impression, motivate non-members, etc? Please send in your suggestions and ideas of ways we can reduce or eliminate these and other attritions.

The Mensa Foundation scholarship program, mentioned last time, is one way to gain attention for Mensa and it has just been revised so that deserving students anywhere in the U.S. (not just those living in areas of local groups which are active in the program) can receive awards. So please consider making a tax deductible charitable donation.

On another topic, Mensa events are viewed by many Ms as the primary deliverable for keeping up with their membership. But I'd like to mention that active participation is one of the main reasons Ms continue to be Ms: it's habit forming in a great way. Helping with any of the many tasks a local group or region or American Mensa need to get done is often fun and stimulating. Although there are fewer than 2,000 active participants (i.e., office holders) in American Mensa, the average is one and a half offices held (like area coordinator, proctor, co-editor, etc.) per participant. It's the rare local group that has all the helpers it

needs and, even if you don't want to organize a large event or be a proctor, lending a hand at an event you're attending is very much appreciated. Try it; you'll like it.

One of our region's most active participants is Eric Eichorn of San Francisco Regional Mensa. Eric and his program co-chairs, Cynthia Wilcox and Josie Burton, have done the work to get his group's regional gathering a place (the Pleasanton Hilton at the Club, Pleasanton, CA) and dates (November 22 -24). The title of the gathering is "Brilliance by the East Bay" and Eric and his program co-chairs are hoping to repeat last year's successful event and improve on it. Mark your calendars! ■

Notes from Your ExComm August 10, 2013

Meeting Convened 7:57 p.m. at Bangkok Cuisine restaurant.

Present were LocSec Bob McAllister, 1st Vice-Secretary Ken Wright, 2nd Vice-Secretary Gerald Lockhart, Past LocSec Ed Hanley, and *Neva-Mind* Editor Anna Wright. Also present was Nominations Chair Mark Simkin.

McAllister: Requested status of nominations.

Simkin: None so far.

Wright, A.: Regarding Scholarship Committee:

Scholarship fund raiser will be held in November. Place TBA.

Wright, A. Discussion regarding timing of posting of local election ballot in *Neva-Mind.*

McAllister: Suggest November.

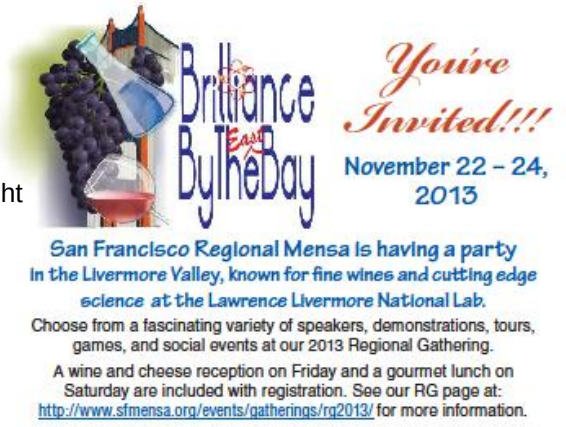
Wright, A.: Agreed

Wright, A. Reminder of Picnic in the Park 18 August 2013.

Wright, A.: Motion to adjourn
Lockhart: Seconded
Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.
Respectively submitted, Ken Wright





Aimless

Gloria S. Dondero

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Not aimless walks
When drab timing
Progresses for days and days
And the trying wilderness
Of hand-tied worlds
Sits alone

There are worlds of the desert
With sunlit cacti
Where iguana playmates
Not lost in the sand
Cavort headily
In bright telling streams
Of lake-spilled water

Joy finds
Three light-hearted crows
Picking over the tasty remains
Of a salad left at table

Time never passes
So quickly
And the singing
Never wanes ■

It's election time and WE NEED YOU!

Would you help by serving as:



(2-year terms, deadline September 10)

LocSec (Local Secretary)
i.e., President (1. Conduct once-a-month ExComm meeting
2. Correspond for the group)

1st Vice-Secretary
i.e., Vice-President (1. Step in for LocSec
2. Take the ExComm minutes)

2nd Vice-Secretary
i.e., 2nd Vice-President (1. Step in for either of the officers above)



Treasurer (1. Handle the banking
2. Write the annual report)

Contact Mark Simkin, Nominations Chair, at MarkGSimkin@yahoo.com to volunteer.

(LocSec continued from page 4)

But, back to language.

Russian is predicated on prepositions. Russian verbs are incorporated with prepositions. Prepositions show relativity, relationships, juxtapositions. This is reflected in their cultural dialogue with reality. It makes for good investigative scientists. It makes for poignant prose. (Really.)

Germans have a similar approach to dealing with life, shown through the dynamics of their language. It's precise. You have to hold (patience) a (sometimes) complex thought together until the end of a sentence to get the total nuance.

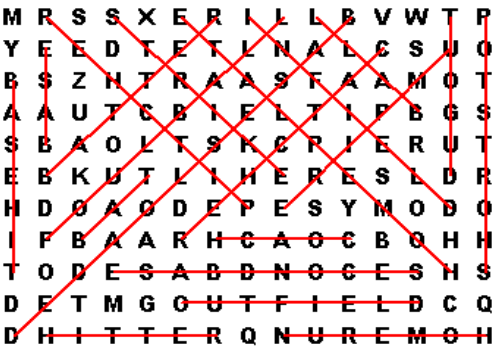
Spanish. Not a "mañana" thing and, still, a relaxed, comfortable approach to music and poetry.

The *Bulletin* issue that prompted me to address all of this was the reference to the "Tenerife" incident.

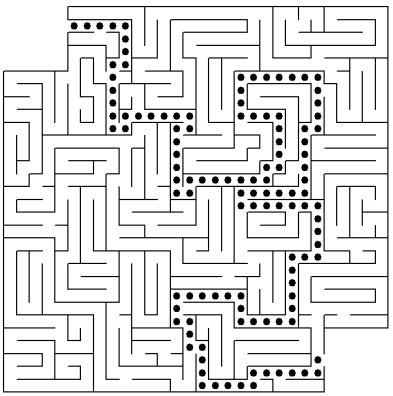
Sitting at my listening position, years ago, I listened to piloted traffic leaving Vnukovo airport in Russia — casual back-and-forth chatter. On the same frequency, I could hear what seemed to be the same kind of back and forth chatter originating in Romania, the apparent destination of the Russian pilots. The frequencies were being fine-tuned. The jetliner from Russia was approaching Romania — Russian chatter vs. (as yet) disconnected Romanian chatter. Then the jet crossed the border with Romania. And, the two entities began to converse with one another — in English!

English is the *lingua Franca* (sorry, France) of international airways. The *Bulletin* article said this was established in the 1970s due to the Tenerife debacle. It has been *de rigeur* since at least the 1960s. I was there to hear an example of it. ■

What is it? From left to right:
Row 1: hay rake, conveyor
Row 2: wine press, roller, band saw
Row 3: power hammer, shipping container crane, pneumatic seeder
Row 4: disc harrow, fork lift
Row 5: chipper/shredder, grapple



MENSA FOR KIDS



Extra for Experts:
lever, wheel and axle, pulley, inclined plane, wedge, screw

Puzzle Page Answers:

Letter clues:
A: Silver = 47
B: 15. Refers to a girl who's having her quinceañera — sometimes used to replace the number in games such as Bingo.
C: 9 (because of other words they resemble in those languages). Or, one per ring given to men, or 9.
D: 17th amendment, or Apollo 17.
F: Psalm 23.
G: aibohphobia, 11 letters.
H: $20. (Recall this was 1789.)
I: 4.
L: 32.
M: a googolplex is 10^googol, its common (base-10) log is a googol (10^100), its common log is 100, the square root is 10.
N: 16 (1337-1453)
O: 29.46 years, rounded to 29.
P: 8 regular and 5 dwarf = 13.
S: 6: up, down, charm, strange, bottom and top
T: 12
U: 43 (Technetium)
V: 54, Xenon (created xenon hexaflouride)
W: 37
Y: 31

Meta-Questions:
19) It's about music and psychology, so 7 and 24 are both E.
20) 14 and 22 are both R.
21) This resolves to square root(-1), or i. Therefore I = 21 (in addition to 4 from above)
22) September 2010, so X = 9 + 10 = 19.

The translated cryptogram:
Imagine, if you will, an electronic dance song inspired by a psychology experiment. On rats.

Actually, you don't have to: an experiment in which rats had wires placed in their brains' pleasure centers and were electrically rewarded for following commands was the inspiration for the song "Strict Machine" recorded by Goldfrapp. Which should be obvious when you hear the lyrics, particularly the bridge "wonderful electric".

(Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeawPUpTHJA)



Trivia Question:
Where is Biosphere 1? Earth!

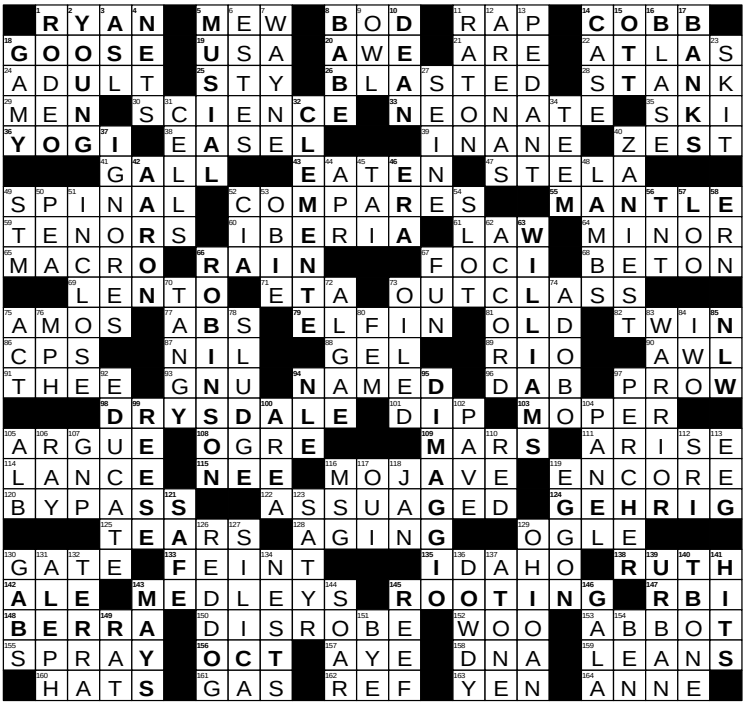
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Mensa-Speak *What are we saying?*

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)

Diamond Legends
Answers:



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