Neva-Mind

Volume 32, Issue 7 - **July 2008**



Our Party's ON!

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www.northernnevada.us.mensa.org

October 3-5, 2008



**"Get involved.
The world is run by
those who show up!"
- Anonymous -**

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Neva-Mind

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Cover photo by

Bill Kositzky

A Note from the Editor



I hope everyone enjoys the slightly new format here in the *Neva-Mind*. Since I come from a mathematics career, I tend think of myself more as a numbers person rather than a literary specialist. So, I have added a few puzzle-type items for those of us left-brainers who enjoy a little self-torture now and then. My tenure here will hopefully be temporary: we are seeking a more permanent editor. So, if you would like to give it a try, let me know. We'll be glad to give you your chance.

- - Anna ☺

"Sing like no one's listening,
love like you've never been hurt,
dance like nobody's watching,
and live like it's heaven on earth."

Mark Twain

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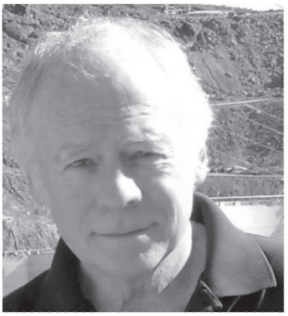
Without these people, how would we keep Northern Nevada Mensa running? **Page 2**

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Mensa photographer Bill Kositzky gives us his view of the famous Reno Arch. **Page 3**

From the Loc-Sec

by Bob McAllister



In the course of establishing Reno's first Mensa RG, we seem now also to be in the running for having the AG in 2012. AML is giving serious thought to granting this. We are in top consideration, at the moment. This granting is unusual as we haven't even yet accomplished the RG for exemplar's sake.

The sky is falling.

The world is heating up. It first was termed by the scientific community as the "Runaway Greenhouse Effect." Now we have the euphemistic "global warming." A snowball starts moving down the side of a mountain and, if something isn't done about it quickly, it won't be stopped. The planet Venus is a greenhouse. Its sulfuric atmosphere melts lead.

Will that happen here? Probably not. That doesn't mean that things might not get ugly.

In the sixties, Rachel Carson wrote a book titled "Silent Spring." Initially, she was ridiculed for her foolish contention that what we do now may well come back to haunt us. Her views were eye-openers that are now held in esteem.

Just as there can be catalytic events in chemistry, there can be catalysis in other venues. Neanderthals disappeared relatively quickly. I can imagine that what likely happened is that humans, who weren't as robust nor numerous at first encounters, probably diseased them into extinction. Europeans nearly did that to Native-Americans when they encountered one another. As a race of beings we are rather appallingly squalid. If we pollute enough, there can be different forms of catalysis. Nature notices that we push our luck and throws something like AIDS at us to get us back in line. We seem to be getting around AIDS, though, and still push our luck. So maybe nature could throw avian flu at us next. Those would be in the vein of social catalysis with a biological reflection.

There very possibly could be an ecological catalysis. What ever the reason for warming - humans or a regularly recurring cycle - if the planet is subjected to enough heat pollution, the incredibly massive amounts of trapped methane that exist will be freed. It's trapped in the permafrost regions of the world and those regions are dissipating. Methane is trapped (by

Bob McAllister continued from page 5)

at oceanic depths in a deep freeze, if you will. All the petroleum, coal and natural gas reserves in the world are dwarfed in comparison to the amount of as yet unreleased methane. Engines that operate in an oxygen environment would cease to operate. Respiratory systems wouldn't work, either. The sudden amount of so much more heat would snuff out pretty much everything.

Will this happen? It seems that the catalytic snowball of cataclysms is perilously close to the edge. And we, the human race, add more and more people to the problem every day. Some countries seem to be better prepared than others. China, with more people than there were in the whole world in the fifties, is making great strides in dealing with the looming threat. They make plans that extend ten, twenty years or more into the future, not being handicapped with two-, four-, or six-year election cycles of a society already hampered by impatience and short attention spans.

Whoa! Pretty gloomy stuff to consider, when summer is just around the corner. Though, erring on the side of caution isn't too bad of a policy. Just call me Chicken Little.

Neva-Mind Receives Nominations

Neva-Mind has been nominated as one of three top newsletters in Mensa's annual national newsletter contest. Competition for the 2008 awards is divided into three categories — newsletters in large, medium and small groups. With its membership of around 160, Northern Nevada Mensa competed in the small-groups division. The winning newsletter will be announced at the annual convention in Denver.

Mark Simkin's *The Black Nightstick* has been nominated in the humor division. His story competes with five other nominations. *Neva-Mind* competes with newsletters from Borderline Mensa, Coastal Carolina Mensa and Western Michigan Mensa.

"If you have some design sense," said Loren Mac Arthur, editor for the contest time span, "just about anything can be made to look good— although it's pretty hard to do in a 5 ½ by 8 ½ page format. But without content, you have nothing but mediocrity.

"I was very lucky to have outstanding photographers and writers. They're the ones who made this award possible. I'm really pleased with the way things turned out."

Trivia Anyone? (from Trivia Café)

1. In human reproduction, the X-and Y-chromosomes determine gender. Is the X-chromosome associated with male or female characteristics?
2. Which U.S. state's highest point is only 345 feet above sea level?
3. After an absence of four and a half years, this recording artist is back on the Billboard Hot 100 charts with her latest hit record called "One By One." This latest hit comes 31 years after her first musical hit, from July, 1965. Who is she?
4. Between 1847 and 1854 more than one million people left this European country and emigrated to the United States and elsewhere. What nationality were these people, and what natural event caused their mass emigration?
5. Before the Macintosh computer was released in 1984, which Apple computer model introduced such features as the mouse, and the technology of point and click on visual icons
6. He is a well-known personality, but he's not an actor. His first movie, Space Jam, will open this fall, with Bugs Bunny as co-star. Who is he?
7. What part of speech is the word "the"?
8. She was the outstanding female tennis player of the 1970s and early 1980s. She was ranked number one in the world seven times. In 1974 won a record 56 consecutive matches. Who was she?
9. You begin writing down the letters of the alphabet in this pattern: You write A one time, B two times, C three times, D four times, and so on. What letter is 100th on the list?
10. Which person was sentenced to death in 1964 as a result of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?

(*Neva-Mind* Nominations continues from page 6)

(Editor's Note: We are all grateful and proud of the hard work contributed by Loren MacArthur as editor this past year. And Kudos to all of our authors! It is not often enough that quality gets its recognition. Congratulations from all of us!)



Program Listing:

by Rich*rd Arbib*



July Monthly Meeting: **Saturday, July 12**
Topic: Genius and Performance

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Presentation at 7 p.m. Potluck dinner: bring a dish to share.
Speaker: Dr. Tom Kubistant, author of five books and more than 400 articles, including *Performing Your Best*, about the psychology of human performance. His books and articles have covered enhancing sports performance for golf, bodybuilding, and other sports.

Hosts: Bob and Mary McAllister,
350 Old Washoe Circle , Washoe Valley
Phone: (775) 849-2269

Directions:
From the intersection of Highways 395 & 431 (the Mt. Rose Hwy traffic light), go South 7.1 miles into Washoe Valley on Hwy 395. When the cement highway divide ends/disappears, make an immediate left turn. Coming from south on Hwy 395 in Washoe Valley--approximately 100 yards north of the Texaco Station, turn right into Old Washoe Estates. At the gate, key in #9467. Drive into Washoe Circle.

Beat the Heat *by Richard Arbib*

Saturday, July 19 at 2 p.m. Ice-Skating and Swimming in Squaw Valley, then dinner in Truckee. Ice-skating at High Camp in Squaw Valley (elevation 8,200 feet). Beat the heat in July. Outdoor ice rink with view of Lake Tahoe, temperature usually around 80 degrees in Squaw Valley in July, big outdoor pool with waterfalls and giant Jacuzzi. Afterwards, dinner in Truckee in the evening about 6:30 p.m. Location of restaurant to be announced. Cost: $32 for ice-skating (includes skate rental and tramway ride up and down the mountain) and use of swimming pool and Jacuzzi (includes towel and locker). OR $27 for ice-skating without swimming OR $28 for swimming without skating OR $22 for cable car ride up and down the mountain with no skating or swimming. Meet at ice-rink at top of mountain at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Richard Arbib at (775) 685-2600

Final Friday Pub Crawl *by Ron Gendrich*
Friday, July 25

Join your Itinerant *Pubcrawlmeister Reno Ron* for a barhopping tour of the downtown area as we research which establishments to include in our Regional Gathering Pub Crawl. Bring a friend and come have some fun! Meet at 7 p.m. Friday, July 25, on the Rum Bullions front patio in the Silver Legacy Casino, located at 407 N. Virginia St. Look for the yellow balloon. Designed to help welcome newer and less involved members, but all are invited! The crawl should last about 3 hours and take in 3 or 4 bars. For information, call Ron at 219-6979, or email him at renoron2@yahoo.com.

HDAR

High Desert Attitude Reconsideration

Every Monday—Join Mensans for an evening of conversation, drinks and popcorn starting around 5 p.m. at Crosswinds in the Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno.

Fourth Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Every fourth Wednesday join the Mensa Lunch Bunch for delicious conversation. For more information contact Loren MacArthur: 746-2938 or loren1015@aol. com



July 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7 HDAR	8	9	10	11	12 Mensa Meeting
13	14 HDAR	15	16	17	18	19 Beat the Heat!
20	21 HDAR	22	23 Lunch Bunch	24	25 Friday Pub Crawl	26
27	28 HDAR	29	30	31		

August: Roman Marquez will give a talk and demonstration about Wing Chun Kung-Fu, the martial art style of Bruce Lee.



Come play with us!

Register NOW and join in the first-ever RENO Regional Gathering!

This party will be October 3-5, 2008 at the Silver Legacy Resort in downtown Reno, Nevada. This fabulous three-casino property with 22 restaurants and entertainment around every corner is a great setting for the hottest Mensa ticket this fall.

Enjoy the Reno area....

*** Cruise the beautiful blue waters of Lake Tahoe!**

*** Explore historic Virginia City, home of the Comstock Lode and Mark Twain's old stomping grounds.**

***Tour a Nevada brothel and get the real scoop!**

Just few tasty tidbits from our menu…

*** Cutting-edge energy alternatives * Burning Man Festival * Belly Dancing * Electric Cars * Healing Powers of the Mind**

*** Aboriginal Canadian Women in today's world**

*** Virtual tour and discussions of current conditions and politics in China and Tibet**

And meet… **a fellow Mensan who trained his own service dog**

***a Donner Party survivor portrayed by local Chautauqua professional**

***a Native American with a humorous view of American culture**

June/July registration: $75

August/September and at the door: $90

Northern Nevada website http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/



Call For Help!

We will need lots of extra hands (and feet) to help with the RG. What can you volunteer to do?

Here are some jobs that take two hours or less.

1. How about as a ***speaker shepherd***? - Welcoming the speaker and helping them find their speaking room. Could you read a written introduction to the attendees?
2. Do you like to hang out in ***hospitality***? You could do a short tour as host by smiling, handing out drinks and filling up potato chip bowls.
3. Lead a dinner group through the casino complex to their destination on ***Dining Out Night.***
4. Here's a delicious one you can do BEFORE the RG starts! Research and ***critique the restaurants*** in the Silver Legacy complex. Help us by writing up your recommendations based on price and foods available. None of us is likely to be able to eat at all 22 restaurants by then.
5. Are you planning to take one of the tours anyway? Would you like to be the ***group leader***, checking to make sure we are all at the destination and back on the bus afterward?

Would you like to know more about your own Reno RG coming up in October? Do you have ideas or comments to share? Contact **Ken Wright**, **strtwlkr2@charter.net** to sign up for the **RG e-mail list**.

SUDOKUGRAM

Logic and Language Linked! A Sudoku variation that truly combines logic and wordplay.

The rules of Sudokugrams (see http://sudokugrams.com for more details and sample puzzles) in a nutshell:

1. Fill in the empty squares with the letters in the Letter Pool, using each letter only once.

2. Make sure there are no repeating letters in any of the rows, columns, or heavily outlined 2 x 2 boxes.

3. Form twelve different sets of four letters in the rows, columns, and 2 x 2 boxes so that each set can be anagrammed (unscrambled) into a common, clean, non-capitalized word.

Puzzle 1

	A	**M**	**N**
C		**O**	
E			**V**
	H	**L**	**A**

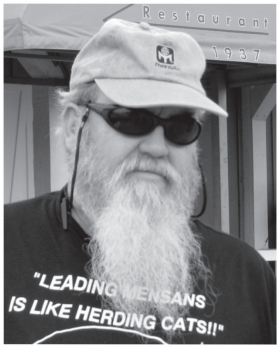
Letter Pool: **G E N I U S**

Sudokugrams is an American Mensa puzzle book by Alan Stillson and Frank Longo (Sterling Publishing, 2007). It's the first Sudoku variation book to combine Logic (**Sudoku**) with Language (**anagrams**).

Sudokugrams was reviewed in the March, 2008 *Mensa Bulletin* and will be presented in a program at the 2008 AG. Mensa Educational and Research Fund (MERF) gets a portion of the proceeds from all sales of *Sudokugrams*.
This puzzle published with permission of Alan Stillson.

Watch For Blondes

by Ken Wright



"Watch for Lightning," the weather site says... so you can do what, jump out of the way if it tries to hit you? That's kind of like, "Keep your eye on the ball." Wouldn't it be better if I used the bat?

Once, when I was about to board an airliner to fly somewhere, the stewardess said to me, "You may get on the plane now." Remembering a George Carlin line from one of his stand up routines, I said, "No thanks, I think I'll get inside instead."

The young woman put her hand on my arm, and stood there with her face twitching and going through a range of emotions and grimaces, obviously not knowing what to make of what I had said. She turned around with her hand over her mouth and another stew stepped up and took over the doorway greeting job. I made my way to my seat thinking to myself, "Well, *THAT* went over like a lead balloon."

A little while later that same stew walked by, then stopped, backed up and looked me in the eye, - then punched me in the arm. Hard! She said, "You rat, you cost me five bucks!" and then went on down the aisle.

I was racking my brain trying to think of what FAA regulation I had broken, or caused her to break. Nothing was coming to mind and believe me, I had a pretty good working knowledge of regulations. It was my business to know them.

After the flight got airborne and at least I wasn't going to be asked to leave the plane, I settled down a bit, but still wondering why a little joke had gotten me in such hot water. The stew with the mean right hand came along serving drinks, accompanied by her relief pitcher. It was the second girl who finally explained it to me.

Stew #2 had bet Stew #1 that she could not board the entire passenger list without laughing, as she is easily tickled and gets consumed with the giggles constantly. Stew #1 had rallied to her own defense and bet $5.00 that she could do it. Stew #2 said that it was looking like the girl was going to succeed, as I was among the last half dozen to board.

She also said that Stew #1 is so tight with her money that she "does long division" on the back of her ticket to figure out the tip to the penny at lunch, so she HATES to lose a bet involving money.

My little joke got to Stew #1 and made her crack up, which is why all of the facial gymnastics as she tried valiantly not to laugh. That explained why I got the shot in the arm... and the silent treatment for the rest of the flight.

On the way out I stopped in front of this blonde sore loser and extended my hand in a parting gesture of no-hard-feelings. The girl reluctantly took my hand and then hugged me to her like a long lost relative.

As I walked down the concourse, Stew #2 caught up with me and asked, "You palmed a fiver to her didn't you?" I admitted that I had. I felt bad about costing her the bet and just wanted to ease my own conscience. The second girl shook her head and said, "Damn her, I felt bad about her losing the money and told her to forget the bet. Now SHE's up five bucks and she lost the bet."

Yeah, blondes are all dumb all right...

Help Needed! August Mensa Meeting Place

We need a host for speaker Roman Marquez who will demonstrate Wing Chun Kung-Fu, the martial art style of Bruce Lee, and discuss its fascinating history. We need a location that has a backyard or a space where he can perform the movements.

Host volunteers please call Richard Arbib at (775) 685-2600.

Answers: Trivia Anyone?

1: FEMALE **2**: FLORIDA

3: CHER First hit: "All I Want to Do." = Dylan hit

4: IRELAND / POTATO FAMINE

5: LISA **6**: MICHAEL JORDAN

7: DEFINITE ARTICLE

8: CHRIS EVERT **9**: N

10: JACK RUBY who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin. Ruby died of cancer in 1965

(note: Answers were supplied by Trivia Café and may not necessarily be agreed on by the Mensan readers.)

Solution to Puzzle 1

S	A	M	N
C	N	O	E
E	G	I	V
U	H	L	A

Letter Pool: G E N I U S

Across: MANS, CONE, GIVE, HAUL

Down: CUES, HANG, LIMO, VANE

Boxes: SCAN, OMEN, HUGE, VIAL

Note: Other anagrams like CANS are okay

Northwest Passages



by John Recht, Regional Vice-Chair

My sixteen year old daughter, Marissa, doesn't do email. It's just not on her radar. She spends a tremendous amount of time on the computer and on her cell phone, watches a lot of television, goes frequently to movies, and she now has a Wii, but for her email is slow, boring, and unnecessary.

For me email is absolutely necessary, and I spend hours each day on it. At this moment I am composing my column as an email. Why do I bring this up? Simply because as an observer of the evolution of consciousness, and one who pays attention to generational differences, I see the decline of email in favor of instant messaging and text messaging as an important change, one that we need to account for and to deal with if we are to communicate effectively with one another.

Mensans tend to have a great desire to communicate with one another, and so changes that affect our modes of communication are especially pertinent. American Mensa's National Office is acutely aware of generational differences within our organization, and together with the AMC Communications Committee there are constant efforts at the national level to enable us all to converse with one another as well as to hear messages of interest about the organization.

Particularly at the Annual Gatherings there are opportunities for Mensans of every generation to get together. It is heartwarming to see this happen and to know that in the process, people of different generations are sharing their ideas and values with one another. I am encouraged by indications that this is happening more and more at Regional Gatherings as well.

So although the shift in generational thinking is profound, and the totally new environments of the electronic age continue to change the perceptions of young people just as Marshall McLuhan predicted in *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* more than 40 years ago, there is every reason to expect that we can still communicate effectively if we make a concerted effort. More to the point, the future of Mensa depends upon it. I look for-ward to hearing from you on this or any other topic that you feel the AMC should attend to; please email me at rvc8@us.mensa.org or better still, talk to me at the AG. Hope to see you there!

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