

Plains Peaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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

February 2008

LocSec News

Hello, fellow Plains & Peaks Mensans! All is fine at the Halby house: dogs, cats, Rent-A-Mike - all are healthy and sassy. Rent-A-Mike's been keeping busy in his retirement; he built a beautiful wine rack for me and is currently working on a couple of bat houses and bird houses for the backyard. And, speaking of my better half, I am pleased to announce Rent-A-Mike is, after all these years, now an official Mensan! I finally got him to send in "prior evidence" and he qualified for membership, making us M&Ms. (When I say that, he says I'm the nutty M&M!)

On to Mensa business. We had fun at January's Games Night, with rounds of Scene It?®, Argue® (a new debating game), and an attempt at a very complicated TV game we eventually gave up on!! There were lots of laughs, however, during the Argue® game, as there are "distracters" one can give to your opponent - like meowing like a cat while presenting your side or arguing with your head touching the table.

At January Trivia Night at Bennigan's, we overpowered all the non-Mensan players in the place and as usual, Al Ackerson and Jim Hunter were a couple of our best Trivia players! If you enjoy trivia at all, you should check this event out in February.

Poker Night was successful - at least for me, as I was one of the big win-

ners of the evening. We had two tables of players and lots of good snack food to munch on during the games! As usual, Dave and Jennifer were great hosts! Thanks for having us to your home! Check out the photos of Poker Night on our new Plains & Peaks Mensa web-site.

And, please do check out our new web-site at www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org/. Our webmaster, Windy Haddad, has revamped and updated our site and it's spectacular! Take a look at the photos page of recent events - ExComm dinner and Poker Night - as well as visit a couple of the links Windy has added, like to FreeRice and the new Colorado Springs Scrabble club. Please contact Windy to add other links or send in photos to be posted.

Coming up in February: a visit to the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs for our Main Monthly Meeting. The FAC has got a spectacular exhibit of Impressionist and Modern Masters going on right now (which is scheduled to end in early March - so see it NOW!). This is an art display the likes of which we've never seen in our city before - Rodin, Degas, Monet, Pissarro, Kandinsky, O'Keeffe, Pollock, a many more fine artists' works. Please take advantage of this wonderful FAC event - whether you go with the Mensa group or on your own. It will be well worth the visit.

We will be holding a testing session

in February, on Monday the 11th in the evening. If you know of someone who might want to test for Mensa membership, please have him/her contact me for testing details.

Also in February - our usual events: ExComm Meeting and dinner, Trivia Night, Poker Night, and Ultimate Saturday Supper. Please try to join us for one or all of these events - and, as always, Mensa members and their guests are always welcome at our Plains & Peaks happenings! Hope to see you soon!

-Sandy

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Annual Beekeepers School

Announcing the Annual Beekeepers School
hosted by the
Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association

- When:** March 15 - 16, 2007
Saturday 8 am till 4:30 pm and Sunday
8:30 am till noon
- Where:** Bear Creek Nature Center 245 Bear
Creek Road Colorado Springs, CO 80906
520-6387
- Cost:** \$35.00 per person + spouse, includes
manual First Lessons in Bee Keeping
- Contact:** Register with Kim Gravestock at (719)
632-0075 , e-mail florador@comcast.
net or Sandy Halby (719) 528-5483, e-
mail mandshalby@comcast.net

This day and a half comprehensive course covers all aspects of beekeeping in the Pikes Peak region. You will learn how to acquire bees and the necessary equipment to keep them. Bee biology and the skills to manage your bees through the four seasons will be covered. . All lectures are presented by local beekeepers with tons of collective knowledge.

Whether you are interested in keeping your own colonies, or simply wanting to know more about these fascinating creatures and their wonderful product – honey; this easy to follow course will open a new door into the natural world for you.

Welcome and Farewell

WELCOME:

William Bahn, Kenneth Geohegan, and Mike “Rent-A-Mike” Halby, all new Mensa members. Welcome to Mensa and to Plains & Peaks Mensa in particular!

WELCOME BACK:

Connor Baker, Bill Ellis, and Thomas A Barlow, all rejoining our group. Hello, again!

FAREWELL:

Rajshekar Kamath, who moved to Texas. Good luck to you!
Robert Dews, who moved out of our local group area. Farewell!

If you’d like e-mail reminders of upcoming Plains & Peaks Mensa events, please contact Sandy at mandshalby@comcast.net. Sandy sends out e-mail reminders a couple of days before a Plains & Peaks Mensa event (when she remembers). She uses bcc: so your e-dress says private.

February Birthdays

Mike Halby	5 Feb
Eric Johnson	8 Feb
Edward Kaplan	8 Feb
Barbara Ann Masse	8 Feb
Robin Doran	15 Feb
Anita Russell	17 Feb
Deborah Johnson	18 Feb
Glenn Spencer	18 Feb
Al Ackerson	19 Feb
David Haukom	20 Feb
Frank Shelton	26 Feb

NOTE: If you don’t see your birthday posted here, it’s probably because that information (and perhaps more) is marked “non-releasable” on our rosters. If you’d like to check on your personal information release status, please contact American Mensa (1-800-66-MENSA) or go to www.us.mensa.org and under Member resources, select the PDQ section.

DENVER-TALK

Corey: Well, hello, Lois! Longtime no see! How's everything?

Lois: Oh, hi Corey! I'm okay, I guess. But it's been really boring since you moved out. I can't find *anyone* to play *Jenga*® with me.

Corey: Gee, Lois, I'm sorry about that! But you just joined DENVER MENSA. I hear they've got *lots* of smart people who *love* to *play games*, even *Jenga*®!

Lois: Really? Well, I haven't met anyone like that yet. In fact, I don't even *know* anyone in DENVER MENSA well enough to call them up and *ask* them if they'd like to play a game with me!

Corey: You don't *have* to call anyone up, Lois. Just post a notice in DENVER-TALK!

Lois: DENVER-TALK? What's that?

Corey: DENVER-TALK is the official listserv of DENVER MENSA. **Anyone who is a Mensa member can sign up.** So can you.

Lois: A listserv? What's a *listserv*?

Corey: A listserv is a way to talk to lots of people, including people you haven't met yet, and a way to listen to other people's discussions, only you're reading instead of listening. Once you've signed up, you can read what they've said on the DENVER-TALK listserv ARCHIVES *at your leisure*, or you can have each new posting sent to your email address *right away*.

Lois: What's so great about that?

Corey: Well, on DENVER-TALK you could say: *Who wants to play Jenga*®? And someone might respond: What's *Jenga*®? And you could explain it to them, and someone else might read your description and say: *That sounds like fun! I'd like to learn; would you teach me?* And another person might say: *I know a really cool coffee shop where they have big tables in back and they would let us play.* And someone else might say: *In the summer there is a park with a neat gazebo for shade, and a table just right for games!* And someone else might say: *I have the deluxe version, big enough for a crowd!* And the next thing you know, you'd have a regular *Jenga*® tournament going right in your neighborhood. And you could meet in a public place, and you wouldn't have to give out your phone number until you got to know them better.

Lois: Hmmmmp! How do I sign up?

Corey: Simple, just go to the DENVER MENSA website, click on the link for listserves, then click on the DENVER-TALK link, and follow the directions.

Lois: Oh Corey! I've looked at that page and I couldn't make head nor tail of it! You know I don't get along with computers and websites and such. I'm a real techno-phobe, I am.

Corey: Well, Lois, this is your lucky month, because our Matrix Editor, Jan Fargo, has agreed to give anyone who calls her FREE instructions on how to sign up on the DENVER-TALK listserv. Just call her at 303-575-5684, and she'll walk you right through the process.

Lois: 303-575-5684? That number doesn't work!

Corey: Yes it does! Just wait for the paging to go through. If she doesn't pick up, leave your phone number and the codeword DENVER-TALK. She'll call you back within 12 hours, usually less, and talk you through the sign up as you sit at your computer.

Lois: Oh, yeah, Corey! I bet she's another one of those smart-alecky computer geeks who knows it all and can't explain anything to dumb little techno-challenged *me*!

Corey: Now, Lois, don't you go leaping to false assumptions. I happen to know that Jan, our Editor, was a real hardcore Ludite herself; didn't even *own* a computer until just a couple of years ago, and now look at her!

Lois: Huh! Sigh! Okay, Corey. I'll give Jan our Editor a call at 303-575-5684 and ask her to show me how to sign up on DENVER-TALK. But if that doesn't work, I'll be *really* unhappy with you!

Corey: I'm not worried, Lois. See you in a few!

Lois: Okay. Bye, Corey.

One month later.....

Corey: Hi, Lois! How's everything?

Lois: Hi, Corey! I'm doing great! I called our Editor Jan as you suggested. Turns out 303-575-5684 really does work! Even when she's out of town. She got me signed up on DENVER-TALK right away, and now I've got two people coming over to play *Jenga*® with me on Wednesday afternoons. Best of all, we're becoming real friends, and we're talking about doing some other things around town together. All thanks to DENVER-TALK! And Jan's help! And thanks to you and your good suggestions! Thank you, Corey. You're a real pal!

Corey: You're welcome, Lois!

February Calendar

Thursday, Feb 7th, 6:30 pm: February ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The February ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Kura Japanese Restaurant, 3478B Research Parkway (at Union and Research). Please join us for a short (very short) Executive Committee meeting and then dinner afterwards. As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

Thursday, Feb 7th, 8:00 pm: RSVP for Poker Night. Call Larry and Nancy at 593-9839 to RSVP, direction and other specifics about this event!

Saturday, Feb 9th, 6:00 pm: Poker Night. Larry and Nancy will host a Just-for-fun nickel-dime-quarter poker game at their house. Beginners are welcome. Snacks and diet sodas will be provided. Bring your own drinks if you want something else. Allergy alert – friendly dogs and cats. If we don't have at least 5 players by Thursday evening, we may cancel and go to Cripple Creek instead!

Monday, Feb 11th, 6:30 pm: Mensa Admission Testing. We will be conducting Mensa Admissions Testing this date. Please contact Sandy at 528-5483 or **mandshalby@comcast.net** for details.

Tuesday, Feb 12th, 6:00 pm: Trivia at Bennigan's! Tasty appetizers, soothing drinks, good grub, and some real head-scratchers are the highlights of Mensa's monthly trivia outing. Join us at Bennigan's at 3502 N. Academy for an hour of puzzlement and pure delight!

Sunday, Feb 17th, 1:00 pm: Main Monthly Meeting – Fine Arts Center! We're visiting the Fine Arts Center this month to see their recent remodeling as well as the special exhibit: Impressionist and Modern Masters, featuring painting by Picasso, Matisse, Monet, Kandinsky, and many more. (This exhibit ends March 9th, so this may be your last chance to see these paintings.) The FAC is at 30 West Dale Street, right off Cascade Avenue, in Colorado Springs. There's a docent-led tour starting at 1:00 pm; please meet at the front desk at that time. For FAC non-members, there is a \$12 entrance fee (\$10.50 for seniors and students/youths) which includes entrance to the permanent collection. For a sneak peak and more about the FAC, visit www.csfineartscenter.org

Thursday, Feb 21st, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper!! Call Al at 635-4910 to confirm a spot at the Sonterra Grill on Saturday!

Saturday, Feb 23rd, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper! Innovative southwest cuisine takes center stage for February as we visit the Sonterra Grill. Join us at 28B South Tejon and nosh on incredible dry-aged steak and fresh cut seafood, or try the fajita magnifico, a combination of slow-smoked ribs, southwest shrimp, and free range chicken! Reservations are required for this event. Visit www.sonterragrill.com for a menu preview.

Advance Notice: Wednesday, March 12th, 6:30 pm: March ExComm Meeting and Dinner. This close to St. Patrick's Day, the only place to go is Jack Quinn's Irish Pub, 21 South Tejon. To see their menu, visit www.jackquinnspub.com.

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 6:30 PM Ex-Comm Mtg & Dinner	8	9 6:00 PM Poker Night
10	11 6:30 PM MENSA Admissions Test	12 6:00 PM Trivia@ Benningan's	13	14 RSVP for Poker	15	16
17 1:00 PM MMM @ FAC	18	19	20	21 8:00 pm RSVP For Ultimate Supper	22	23 6:30 PM Ultimate Saturday Supper @ Sonterra Grill
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Culture Quest - April 27 2008

On the 27th of April, throughout the U.S. and Canada, Mensa teams of up to five members each will be trying to answer "trivia" questions that cover subjects from film to politics, from literature to geography and from music to history. No reference materials of any sort can be used or consulted during the quiz. The time limit for over 300 questions is 90 minutes and teams compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights.

CultureQuest® teams may consist of up to five primary players, and up to two alternates.

"CultureQuest®: Classic" is open to all Mensa members regardless of age. Each team member must be a dues-paid Mensa member (U.S. or Canada) for the 2008-2009 membership year by April 1, 2008.

"CultureQuest®: The Next Generation" is the Youth Division. Entrants must have been born AFTER April 28, 1990. Only the Youth Division team captain must be a current Mensa member.

Some sample questions from years past are:

Do you know who won the first Nobel Prize for Physics?

How about what musical art form originated in Italy about A.D. 1600?

Or maybe you know what spice is also known as "wild marjoram"?

You can also go to: www.okmensa.org/features/cq/ for a quick quiz using old CultureQuest® questions. It's fun to see how you score on this! Another great site for 'Questers, which features original CultureQuest® questions, is: www.amyx.org/mensa/goingforward/backissues/v4n1/quest.htm

For a great CultureQuest® warm-up go to www.us.mensa.org where you can sign up for the CultureQuest® Question of the Day.

If you're interested in forming a team or joining a team, let Sandy know by the 15th of March. We'd really like to field two teams again this year – and we already have 4 players signed up!

PlainsPeaking

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