

Plains Peaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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

JULY 2008

LocSec News

Hello, fellow Plains & Peaks Mensans! I'm so excited about the Mensa AG coming up in Denver the 2nd thru the 6th of July! The schedule looks spectacular – over 330 programs so there's lots to offer everybody – along with the usual AG amenities: Games Room, Hospitality Suite, and Mensa Marketplace. I know I'll be going nonstop for the entire AG – I've already double-booked program times and will have to make some really tough choices: do I go to "Solving the Double Mystery of Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays" or "Son of Speed Talking"? If you are going up to the AG, do try to catch the Steinhilber Capades – they're singing on Thursday and will be doing their "Amazing Grace" bit – which is wonderful!! For those going to the AG, I'll post a notice on the bulletin board for members of our group to meet up in Hospitality at various times to compare notes and hang out!

Now on to our local Mensa news ... our MMM in June was great! Ten of us visited the Paint Mines out by Calhan – truly a "hidden gem" of a park. From the parking lot, we walked through the prairie on a well-kept trail and as we approached the Paint Mines themselves, the colors and shapes emerged and blossomed! It was really beautiful – I've asked Windy to post some photos on the web-site (www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org) but pictures really don't do the Paint Mines justice. Get out there and see them for yourselves!!

(The trails are very easy, but be advised - there is no shade or water.)

Our July Main Monthly Meeting is a visit with a true world-expert ... on the topic of Gila monsters!! Dr. Mark Seward, author of *Dr. Mark Seward's Gila Monster Propagation: How to Breed Gila Monsters in Captivity*, has invited us to his laboratory to see his collection of Gila monsters (the largest in the world) and learn a bit about this unique lizard. If you've ever caught a nature program that has Gila monsters or read about Gilas, you can bet Dr. Seward is mentioned in the credits. This should be an exciting and educational meeting!

Also in July – our ExComm Meeting and Dinner at Adam's Mountain in Manitou Springs, Scrabble Afternoon at my house, Trivia Night at TGI Friday's, Poker at Nancy & Larry's house, and then we'll finish up the month with Ultimate Saturday Supper at P.F. Chang's! Check out the calendar here or on the web-site for event details!

Remember - if you have a favorite Local Link, or a Fun & Games web-site you think other Mensans might enjoy, contact Windy to link it up at windy@windyhaddad.com Also, you can have Windy link your personal page or business page to our web-site.

Looking forward to seeing you in Denver at the AG and at a Plains & Peaks Mensa event in July!!

by Sandy Halby

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Region 7 News



FREE HEARTS! Our annual gathering (convention) - ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH IQ - takes place July 2 to July 6 in Denver Colorado. Over 1,700 Mensans have registered. For all of our Region 7 members attending, pick up your FREE flashing heart from 6 PM to 7:15 PM in Plaza Court 3 during our Region 7 Meet & Greet on the 4th of July.

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ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER OR AN OFFICER? Are you interested in becoming just a little bit more involved in Mensa? All new members, previously inactive members and all local group officers are invited to Bismarck, North Dakota on Saturday, August 2 for a FREE one-day Leadership Development Workshop. Are you good on the computer? Learn how to get publicity for your local group. Find out how to get volunteers for your group. Are your kids smart? Learn how to get funding from Mensa for gifted children program. Location: Best Western Ramkota Hotel [\$109 per night (701) 258-7700] features an indoor WATERPARK with a 150' waterslide. Registration for LDW is FREE and includes lunch and dinner. Register at RVC7@us.mensa.org or with ERIN KOFFLER at skoffler@msn.com.

CASTLE MOUNTAIN CAMPING COLORADO REGIONAL GATHERING Come and enjoy the beauty of the Colorado Rockies at the First Bailey Annual Regional Gathering. Enjoy camping, hiking, fishing and picnics from August 1 to August 3 in a private campground in a wilderness setting near Bailey, CO. No registration fees, just entry/camping fees of \$6 person per day. Free for kids under 5. For info, contact GARY SHAPIRO locsec@denver.us.mensa.org at (303) 674-2756 or check out our Region 7 web page for Events: <http://region7.us.mensa.org/Events.html>.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Region 7 2008 Publications Web Site Recognition Program Nominees: "Members Only" MARK SHORT, Mid-America Mensa; "Overall Presentation: PEGGY MADSEN of High Mountain Mensa; WINDY HADDAD of Plains and Peaks; "Overall Entertainment" JULIE MARBLE of Denver; "Calendar" MARK SHORT - Mid-America; "Member Recruitment": MARK SHORT Mid America; "Outstanding Web Site (large group)" MARK SHORT Mid-America; "Contributions - Poetry" KAREN KOZAK Nebraska

by Peggy Pannke-Smith

Western Iowa. Special congratulations to MARK SHORT! Great job Mark!! Come to the Award Ceremony Luncheon at the Annual Gathering and cheer our Region 7 winners!

A WHOLE YEAR?!! Yes! I've been your Regional Vice Chairperson for a whole year now and have enjoyed every minute. What a great group to represent! We now have 2559 members. 88% of our newest members are ages 20-47. Looking forward to meeting you at the Annual Gathering in Denver, or at the Leadership Development Workshop on Saturday, August 2 in Bismarck ND.

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Answering Machine Messages

Hi! John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets.

Hello, this is Sally's microwave. Her answering machine just eloped with her tape deck, so I'm stuck taking her calls. Say, if you want anything cooked while you leave your message, just hold it up to the phone.

You have reached 934-2435. We picked this machine up at a garage sale in "as-is" condition. You can try to leave a message on it, but we are not sure it will be recorded. If we don't return your call, it means the machine did not work.

Hello. You are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need siding, windows, or a hot tub, and their carpets are clean. They give to charity through the office and don't need their picture taken. If you're still with me, leave your name and number and they will get back to you.

Thank you for calling. If you wish to speak to Tim, push 1 on your phone now. If you wish to speak to Lynn, push 2 on your phone now. If you have a wrong number, push 3 on your phone now. All of this button pushing doesn't do anything, but it is a good way to work off anger, and it makes us feel like we have a big time phone system.

"You have called 655-9229. If you are my mom, I will write as soon as I can, I promise. If you are my son, sorry, I am broke too. If you are a friend, leave a message after the tone. If you are a salesman, forget it.

This is not an answering machine -- this is a telepathic thought-recording device. After the tone, think about your name, your reason for calling, and a number where I can reach you, and I'll think about returning your call.

Heaven, God speaking...

Hello. I'm home right now but cannot find the phone. Please leave a message and I will call you up as soon as I find it.

I can't come to the phone now because I have amnesia and I feel stupid talking to people I don't remember. I'd appreciate it if you could help me out by leaving my name and telling me something about myself. Thanks.

I can't come to the phone right now because I'm down in the basement printing up a fresh new batch of twenty dollar bills. If you need any money, or if you just want to check out my handiwork, please leave your name, number, and how much cash you need after the tone. If you're from the Department of the Treasury, please ignore this message.

Hi. I'm probably home, I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message, and if I don't call back, it's you.

Bob here. I'm home right now, I'm just screening my calls. So start talking and if you're someone I want to speak with I'll pick up the phone. Otherwise, well, what can I say?

Hello, this is David. I don't live here, so if you were trying to call me, you've dialed the wrong number. On the other hand, if you were trying to call John, Jim, or Eric, please leave your name and number at the tone. I don't guarantee that one of them will call you back -- only that I won't.

from the Internet

Hello, this is Ron. I'm not home right now, but I can take a message. Hang on a second while I get a pencil. (Open a drawer and shuffle stuff around.) OK, what would you like me to tell me?

You're growing tired. Your eyelids are getting heavy. You feel very sleepy now. You are gradually losing your willpower and your ability to resist suggestions. When you hear the tone you will feel helplessly compelled to leave your name, number, and a message.

I don't want to bore you with metaphysics, but how do you know this is an answering machine? Maybe it's a dream, or maybe it's an illusion, or maybe YOU don't really exist. One way to find out is to leave a message, and if it's reality, I will call you back.

If you are a burglar, then we're probably at home cleaning our weapons right now and can't come to the phone. Otherwise, we probably aren't at home and it's safe to leave us a message.

Bridge, Kirk here.

Hello, you've reached 344-1312, the Apartment at the End of the Universe. Please leave your message, name and number at the sound of the tone. Keep your hands, feet, extremities and obscenities inside the car at all times. Enjoy your ride.

Steve has been captured by a flying saucer and can't come to the phone right now, but if you leave your name, phone number, and a message, I'll have him call you back as soon as he gets away. Read all about it in next week's National Enquirer.

You have reached 234-1243. This is an answering machine. This is the nineties. You know what to do.

You have reached the number you have dialed. Please leave a message after the beep.

This is 234-3249, and no, it's not Pete's Pizzeria. It's not the Credit Union either, and no one named Pam lives here. You can leave a message though.

These words are lovely dark and deep, but I've got promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep. So leave a message at the beep.

[VOICE 1] Answer the phone, please, Hal. [VOICE 2] I'm sorry, Dave, I can't do that.

The President is not in his office at this time. Please leave your name, phone number, the name of the country you wish to invade, and the secret password.

I can't come to the phone now, so if, well, actually, I CAN come to the phone now, I mean, like, I'm at the phone NOW, recording this message, but I'm doing this NOW, while you're listening to it LATER, except for you I guess it's NOW, like, when you're listening to it...I mean, like, wait, gosh. This is so confusing.

How do you leave a message on this thing? I can't understand the instructions. Hello. Testing 1 2 3. I wonder what happens if I touch this... YOW!!

July Calendar

Wed thru Sun, July 2 - July 6: Rocky Mountain High-IQ 2008 Annual Gathering in Denver. Our American Mensa Annual Gathering is just 65 miles away (give or take a little, from Colorado Springs) and chock full of programs (over 330) to education, entertain, and enlighten. In addition to the programs and seminars, there's a Hospitality Suite, Games Rooms, Mensa Marketplace, a Street Fair (on Thursday) and Talent Show (on Friday). Awesome! Come for the whole shebang or just for a day! Visit www.ag2008.us.mensa.org for details about the AG. On-line registration is closed, but you can show up and register (\$100 for full registration or \$40 per calendar day, according to the web-site). Don't miss attending this AG - it's going to be spectacular!!

Thursday, July 10th, 6:00 pm: July ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The July ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Adam's Mountain Café in Manitou Springs. We've not been to Adam's since they moved into the Old Spa Building at 934 Manitou Avenue. Let's check out their new digs and talk about the AG!! Visit <http://www.adamsmountain.com/index.html> for a preview! As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

Saturday, July 12th, 6:30 pm: Main Monthly Meeting: Dr. Mark Seward, World Expert on the Gila Monster. Dr. Seward is truly one-of-a-kind: he breeds Gila monsters in his basement laboratory! (His lab once was rated sixth on the Travel Channel's list of "10 creepiest places.") We'll be meeting at Dr. Seward's house (and his working lab) to see his collection of Gila monsters, which the largest group of captive Gilas in the world. There are lots of misconceptions about Gila monsters and Dr. Seward will be enlightening and educating us on this misunderstood, beautiful lizard. Visit www.drseward.com for a pre-visit. Dr. Seward lives at 4420 Wavy Oak Drive, off of the Palmer Divide Road. Please contact Sandy at 528-5483 or e-mail mandshalby@comcast.net for directions.

Sunday, July 13th, 1:00 pm: Scrabble®! Meet at Sandy's house, 6066 Del Rey Drive (near Flintridge and Dublin, call 528-5483 or email mandshalby@comcast.net for directions) for an afternoon of Scrabble®. Sodas, wine and snacks provided. If you have a Scrabble® game, please bring it with you!! Allergy alert - cats and dogs!

Tuesday, July 15th, 6:00 pm: Trivia at TGI Fridays! Mensa Trivia has found a new home at T.G.I. Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive (I-25 and Woodman). The turnout last month wasn't great, but everything else was

hunky-dory! Good eats, good prices, and plenty of TVs to look at and control boxes to play with.

Thursday, July 17th, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Poker Night due!! Call Larry & Nancy at 593?9839 for RSVP, directions, and other specifics about this event!

Saturday, July 19th, 6:00 pm: Poker Night. Larry & Nancy will host a just-for-fun nickel-dime-quarter Poker Night. 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!

Thursday, July 24th, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper!! Call Al at 635?4910 or e-mail him at alackerson@msn.com to let him know to expect you at P. F. Chang's China Bistro on Saturday!

Saturday, July 26th, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper at P.F. Chang's China Bistro! Don't know about anyone else, but if you haven't made it to P.F. Chang's China Bistro since it opened, you'll have a chance to change that in July. P.F. Chang's offers a hip, contemporary eatery serving healthful Chinese-inspired dishes, including great chicken lettuce wraps! Check out the menu at www.pfchangs.com. See you there!

Advance Notice: Thursday, August 7th, 6:00 pm: August ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The August ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be in the Beer Garden at the Edelweiss German Restaurant, 34 East Ramona (between South Tejon and Nevada on Ramona). Visit <http://www.edelweissrest.com> for a preview of the menu! As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Rocky Mountain High IQ Denver AG	3 Rocky Mountain High IQ Denver AG	4 Rocky Mountain High IQ Denver AG	5 Rocky Mountain High IQ Denver AG
6	7	8	9	10 6:00 pm ExComm Dinner @ Adam's Mountain Café	11	12 6:30 pm MMM with Dr. Mark Seward, Gila Monster Expert
13 1:00 pm Scrabble®! @ Sandy's	14	15 6:00 pm Trivia at TGI Fridays	16	17 8:00 pm Reservations due for Poker Night	18	19 6:00 pm Poker Night
20	21	22	23	24 8:00 pm Reservations due for USS	25	26 6:30 pm USS @ P.F. Chang's China Bistro
28	29	30	31			

Welcome and Farewell

WELCOME TO PLAINS & PEAKS MENSA:

Eric Burton, a new Mensan. Hello, Eric, and welcome!!

David L. Carter and Kimberly A Pfennigs, who are both rejoining our group. Hello, again!

FAREWELL:

Rebecca G. Wyrostek, who moved to another city in Colorado. Good luck to you!

July Birthdays

Ryan P Mielke	July 2
Montgomery A Lee	July 4
Philip Stahl	July 6
Susan Paul	July 10
Margery Black	July 13
Ken Mourer	July 13
Theodore J Thompson	July 17
Michael F Volpe III	July 26
Mary E Murray	July 30
William C Bricking	July 31

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.

PlainsPeaking

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