

# Plains Peaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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## LocSec News

Hello, fellow Plains & Peaks Mensans! Not much new to report from the Halby household (and that could be a good thing!). The animals are all fine – and the flowers and trees are really greening up right now. I think all but one of my roses made it through the winter – and the one rugosa rose that I wish would die came back stronger than ever. It's the thorniest rose in the bunch and I keep threatening to dig it up, which I'm sure makes it resolve to hang on and bloom copiously!

Now on to Mensa news ... our guest speaker at the May meeting, Mr. Bob Russel, former El Paso District Attorney, was most interesting. He spoke about Ted Bundy, the serial killer, and the Jon Benet Ramsey murder, which he believes evidence points to an intruder being the killer. Mr. Russel's extensive, personal knowledge of both these cases was fascinating and you could feel his passion and involvement in seeking justice for all those victims. He also spoke briefly about the Karen Grammer (sister of the actor Kelsey Grammer) murder case, which occurred here in Colorado Springs in 1975. Mr. Russel is still in contact with Mr. Grammer and vows that the murderers will never be paroled.

We'll lighten up a bit for the June MMM with a trek east to Calhan and the El Paso County Paint Mines Park. This little-known interpretive county park officially opened on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005, and boasts walking trails and fantastic scenery. The colorful clays exposed there were used by Native Americans for pottery and paint. There are several easy trails to hike (the longest is 1.3 miles, with a total of about 4.5 miles of trails) to see the badlands-like scenery, but be sure to bring a hat and water! (There's no

shade on the trails.) You may also want to bring your camera for some scenic shots and hopefully some wildlife photos.

Also in June – Trivia Night, Scrabble Afternoon, ExComm Meeting and Dinner, and then we'll end up the month with Ultimate Saturday Supper. Please plan to join us for one or all of these events! All our programs and meeting are open to all our members and their guests.

If you haven't already done so, please renew your American Mensa membership! The Mensa membership year begins April 1; annual dues are \$52.00 (unless specified in a multi-year or life plan). Your American Mensa dues cover subscriptions to the Bulletin and PlainsPeaking and our local newsletter expenses along with any other expenses our group incurs. Plains & Peaks Mensa does not charge local dues and tries to keep most events free or at a minimal cost. Now, with the Annual AG in Denver in July and the great local programs we have coming up, it would be a shame to miss out on all the fun!!

Hope to see you soon!

-Sandy

P.S. Check out our great web-site at [www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org](http://www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org). Our webmaster, Windy, has really been keeping the site up and current. If you have a favorite Local Link, or a Fun & Games web-site you think other Mensans might enjoy, contact Windy at [windy@windyhaddad.com](mailto:windy@windyhaddad.com) to link it up. Also, you can have Windy link your personal page or business page to our web-site.

## by Sandy Halby

If you are receiving this newsletter via snail mail, American Mensa does not have an e-dress for you or it is being withheld at your request. If you'd like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please contact American Mensa (1-800-66-MENSA) or visit [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) to update your personal information. Thank you.

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## Region 7 News



Big news for all Region 7 members attending our record-breaking annual convention, the **Rocky Mountain High IQ – Reach for the Summit** Annual Gathering in Denver from July 2 to July 6. We're having a **Region 7 Meet & Greet** on the **4<sup>th</sup> of July from 6 PM to 7:15 PM** in Plaza Court 3 at the Sheraton Denver Hotel

(formerly called the Adams Mark). I can't wait to meet you in person!

Best of all, the first 200 Region 7 members who come to the Meet & Greet get a **FREE flashing 4<sup>th</sup> of July heart** (hey, we're the **Heartland** right?). You'll be able to spot all the other Region 7 members AND you'll have plenty of time to sparkle at the fireworks later that night.

**WELCOME** to our newest Officers! CYNTHIA WILHELM new Loc Sec for Central Iowa; from Lincoln Mensa, we welcome JEAN DANIELSON as Loc Sec and BURNILL SOFTLEY as Assistant Loc Sec and KIRSTEN ECKERBERG PLETTNER as Treasurer. Nebraska Western Iowa welcomes MIKE NOLAN as President and RON KROENKE as Vice President with DAVE KELLER, Recording Secretary and JILL NELSON as Treasurer. South Dakota has a new editor, JOANN BROKAW.

**KUDOS** to DENVER MENSA for picking up an incredible **21 members in April!** Mid-America was right behind with **13** additional members.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR - COMING UP Saturday August 2 – North Dakota Mensa and Region 7 present a Leadership Development Workshop in Bismarck ND.**

**Are you a NEW or PREVIOUSLY INACTIVE member?** Interested in getting more involved in Mensa? Learn how at this one-day Region 7 LDW. **FREE registration includes lunch & dinner.** The Best Western Ramkota in Bismarck (701) 258-7700 has an **indoor water park with a 150' water slide** so bring the kids. Rooms are about \$109 per night. To register for the LDW contact me at [peggy.mensa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggy.mensa@sbcglobal.net) or ERIN KOFFLER at [ekoffler@msn.com](mailto:ekoffler@msn.com).

Topics planned include **Getting People Involved, Public Relations for your group; How Mensa can Fund your**

## by Peggy Pannke-Smith

**Gifted Children's Project, and Welcoming New Members**, plus fun ice-breakers and prizes.

*PS – Local group Officers are encouraged to attend LDWs; did you know that many local groups vote to fund these worthwhile educational trips including lodging? Bring it up at your ExComm meeting.*

**LAST MINUTE REGISTRATION is still available – even walk-ins are welcome at the Annual Gathering in Denver. Over 150 speakers, 300 programs, 24 hour hospitality and over 1,500 Mensans from around the world to meet! Day rates are only \$40. Register at [registration@agus.mensa.org](mailto:registration@agus.mensa.org)**

### Plains and Peaks Mensa Officers

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## **You're From Colorado If....**

A winter statistic:

98% OF AMERICANS SAY 'OH \* & # @ %' BEFORE GOING IN THE DITCH ON A SLIPPERY ROAD.

THE OTHER 2% ARE FROM COLORADO. THEY SAY, 'HOLD MY BEER AND WATCH THIS.

You're from Colorado if----

You'll eat ice cream in the winter.

When the weather report says it's going to be 65 degrees, you wear shorts and go barefoot.

It snows 5 inches and you don't expect school to be canceled.

You'll wear flip-flops every day of the year, regardless of temperature.

You have no accent at all, but can hear other people's. And then you make fun of them.

'Humid' is over 25%.

Your sense of direction is: Toward the mountains and Away from the mountains.

You say 'the interstate' and everybody knows which one.

You think that May is a totally normal month for a blizzard.

You buy your flowers to set out on Mother's day, but try and hold off planting them until just before Father's day.

You grew up planning your Halloween costumes around your coat.

You know what the Continental Divide is.

You don't think Coors beer is that big a deal.

You went to Casa Bonita as a kid, and as an adult.

You've gone off-roading in a vehicle that was never intended for such activities.

You always know the elevation of where you are.

## **from the Internet**

You wake up to a beautiful, 80 degree day and you wonder if it's going to snow tomorrow.

You don't care that some company renamed it, the Broncos still play at Mile High.

Every movie theater has military and student discounts.

Everybody wears jeans to church.

You actually know that South Park is a real place not just a show on TV.

You know what a 'trust fund hippy' is, and you know its natural habitat is Boulder.

You know you're talking to a fellow Coloradoan when they call it Elitche's, not Six Flags.

A bear on your front porch doesn't bother you.

Your two favorite teams are the Broncos and whoever is beating the crap out of the Raiders.

You've been to the original Chipotle near the DU campus on Evans. And Mustard's Last Stand.

When people out East tell you they have mountains in their state too, you just laugh.

You go anywhere else on the planet and the air feels 'sticky' and you notice the sky is no longer blue.

“Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.”

~Charles R. Swindoll

## June Calendar

**Saturday, Jun 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon: June ExComm Meeting and Lunch.** The June ExComm Meeting and Lunch will be at Shuga's, 702 South Cascade. Visit [www.shugas.com](http://www.shugas.com) for a preview of the menu! As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

**Tuesday Jun 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm: Trivia at TGI Fridays!**  
**NOTE: This is a new location for Trivia Night!!** Join us at TGI Fridays, 7061 Commerce Center Drive (I-25 and Woodman) for an evening of trivia, munchies and a little tipping! Try the potstickers! They're great! All Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

**Thursday, Jun 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Texas Hold 'em due!!** Call Dave & Jen at 442-6451 for RSVP, directions, and other specifics about this event!

**Saturday, Jun 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm: Texas Hold'em Poker Night. YOU MUST HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT!** Dave & Jen will host a Texas Hold 'em "tournament." Beginners are welcome. Snacks and diet sodas will be provided. Bring your own drinks if you want something else. There will be a dealer's choice table available for those who want to continue playing poker after they get eliminated from the tourney. Allergy alert – friendly cats.

**Sunday, Jun 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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!! All Mensa members and their guests are welcome. Allergy alert – cats and dogs!

**Saturday, Jun 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am: Main Monthly Meeting: Paint Mines Interpretive Park.** We're getting out early and going east to Calhan to visit the El Paso County Paint Mines Interpretive Park. This park is a geological wonder of monoliths and gulches, spectacularly colored and set the ecologically rich grasslands of eastern Colorado. Bring your camera, water, hat, and walking shoes! Please meet in the Paint Mines parking lot at 9:00 am. Directions: Take Highway 24 east from Colorado Springs out to Calhan. Go south on Yoder Road/Calhan Highway. Turn east on Paint Mine Road and follow the signs. You can also visit <http://adm.elpasoco.com/Parks/Facilities.htm> or <http://www.coloradotraveljournal.com/content/view/143/143> or <http://outdoors.coloradosprings.com/traildetails.php?id=95> for more information.

**Thursday, Jun 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper!!** Call Al at 635-4910 or e-mail him at [alackerson@msn.com](mailto:alackerson@msn.com) to let him know to expect you at Palapa's Surfside on Saturday!

**Saturday, Jun 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper at Palapa's Surfside!** This month we're off to the beach (figuratively speaking) at Palapa's Surfside, 5710 S. Carefree. This is NOT Joe's Crab Shack or Red Lobster, so anticipate a bill of \$30 to \$40 for an appetizer, main course, and dessert. Try the Scallops of Love, sweetened with brown sugar and wrapped in bacon! Palapa's also has beef, chicken, and lamb on the menu, but if you want something other than fresh seafood, you'll be in the wrong place! Call Al, 635-4910, or send an e-mail, [alackerson@msn.com](mailto:alackerson@msn.com), to reserve your seat by 26 June.

**Advance Notice: Thursday, Jul 10<sup>th</sup>, 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!! Visit <http://www.adamsmountain.com/index.html> for a preview!

## June Birthdays

Stephen D. Copp	June 1
Debra Wheatley	June 1
Wade Erickson	June 2
Bill Bannister	June 3
Christopher M. Root	June 4
Eric Miller	June 8
Kenneth H Bates Jr.	June 13
Harry Richter, DDS	June 15
Alfred Conner	June 16
R. Yvette Duncan	June 23
Dr. Sallie A. Watkins	June 27
Janelle Adams	June 29

**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](http://www.us.mensa.org) and under Member resources, select the PDQ section.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Noon ExComm Lunch @ Shugas
8	9	10 6:00 pm Trivia at TGI Fridays!	11	12 8:00 pm Reservations for Texas Hold 'Em	13	14 6:00 pm Texas Hold'em
15 1:00 pm Scrabble®!	16	17	18	19	20	21 9:00 am MMM Paint Mines Inter- pretive Park
22	23	24	25	26 8:00 pm Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper	27	28 6:30 pm Ultimate Sat- urday Supper at Palapa's Surfside
29	30					

## Welcome and Farewell

### WELCOME TO PLAINS & PEAKS MENSA:

Victoria D Bianchi, who moved here from Georgia. Welcome!!  
 Our new Mensa members: Douglas Lamborn, Matthew Dickinson,  
 and David Munsey. Welcome to Mensa and Plains & Peaks Mensa  
 in particular!

### FAREWELL:

Shannon M Smith, who moved to another state. Good luck to you!



## PlainsPeaking

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