

Plains Peaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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October 2008

LocSec News

Hello, fellow Plains & Peaks Mensans! It's been an up-and-down month for the Halbys. On a down note, our beloved German Shepherd dog, Roarke Rayner, succumbed to the auto-immune disease we continuously fought and he passed away mid-September. Roarke had health problems most of his life and it seems in the end, his body just couldn't deal with the stress anymore. We made the difficult decision to do, as our vet says, the last kind thing we can do for our pets. This decision was doubly difficult as we were out of town when Roarke's health took a turn for the worse and our pet-sitters had to help us through the situation. (God bless our Susans!! If you need a pet-sitter or house-sitter, call me! I highly recommend our Susans!) Thank you to our fellow Mensans who have offered their condolences and support to us during this sad time.

On a high note, Rent-A-Mike and I went to New Orleans for our son's promotion to Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy. Making Navy "Chief" is quite an ordeal culminating in a huge ceremony and we are very proud of his achievements. This was our first visit to New Orleans and we can now truly appreciate the city's nickname "The Big Easy"! We stayed in the heart of the French Quarter, just a block off Bourbon and walked all over "the Quarter," which is very compact with very short blocks. The variations between streets was fascinating – Bourbon Street with cheap souvenir shops, risqué clubs and open-to-the-street bars, then one block over to Rue Royale, with its high-end antique stores and jewelry shops, and another block away, quaint shops and cafes. We did several touristy things, like a cemetery tour (St. Louis #1, where Marie Laveau is interred), cruise

on a Mississippi paddle-wheel boat, attend a jazz concert at Preservation Hall and made a visit to the Café Du Monde for café-au-lait and beignets (which were wonderful)! The city is still recovering from Katrina, albeit slowly. We heard from numerous locals that the tourist numbers are still down, and we saw many boarded up windows and empty building, left over from Katrina. We found the locals, however, to be welcoming and friendly.

On to Mensa business ...sorry I didn't make it to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry in September; my apologies to all. I was still reeling from Roarke's death and had to pass on that event.

But, coming up in October – let's get out and do some geocaching! Dave Syndergaard, our P&P Mensa resident space and GPS expert, will be leading us on a geocaching expedition in October. We'll meet at my house for a quick GPS lesson, then, off to the Black Forest area to find some caches! If you have a GPS receiver, please bring it along; if you don't have a GPS, come anyway, as we can share GPS receivers. Please check out Plains & Peaks calendar for more details.

Also in October, the ExComm Meeting and Dinner at Pizzeria Rustica (which has gotten rave reviews), Sunday Afternoon Scrabble, and Trivia Night. October's Ultimate Saturday Supper will be at Carlos Miguel's, which I've been told is one of the best Mexican restaurants in town. Makes it worth a try, doesn't it? Join us for a Plains & Peaks Mensa event in October, as we've got lots to choose from – and you'll never know how much fun a Mensa event can be unless you at-

tend!! Remember, any event listed on our calendar is open to all our members and guests are welcome. We do ask that our members respect the event host's wishes, such as no smoking, no alcohol, adults only, park only in the street, etc.

Remember, 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 to link it up. Also, you can have Windy link your *personal page* or *business page* to our web-site. I've asked Windy to link up a couple of fun sites, too – like Free Rice, 100 Most Common Words, Travel-Pod and the Pikes Peak Beekeepers. Curious now? Visit www.plainsandpeaksmenta.org and check out Windy's Award Winning Website!!

Looking forward to seeing you in October at a Plains & Peaks Mensa event!!

~Sandy

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RV-7 Highlights

RVC7@us.mensa.org
Heartland Region 7
Regional Vice Chair

by Peggy Pannke-Smith

Would any Hells Mensans
 please contact Sandy at
 528-5483 or e-mail
 (mandshalby@comcast.net).

SAVE OVER \$200!

Did you know that taking the Mensa supervised IQ test can save you over \$200! That's right - a two-hour supervised IQ test performed by a psychologist costs between \$240 and \$500. This month, National Mensa Testing Day is Saturday, October 18 and the two-hour supervised IQ test is **only \$40!**

Invite your smart co-workers, friends and family members. Your group will be advertising the testing location and time. Let them know about this incredible bargain that will prove they really ARE as smart as they look!

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS!

CENTRAL IOWA MENSA warmly welcomes CHRIS ACTON as new Local Secretary and acting Editor, EARL FRANZ as Treasurer, Jason Hollis as Assistant Treasurer and JOSHUA CHRISTENSEN as Scholarship Chair.

NORTH DAKOTA MENSA welcomes DENNIS DOCKTER as new Local Treasurer, ERIN KOFFLER as Area Coordinator, GREGORY KONTZ as Area Coordinator, and MONTE FAUL as Public Relations Coordinator.

LINCOLN welcomes JEAN DANIELSON as new Local Treasurer.

MID AMERICAN'S New Second Vice President is Joe Blake.

GROWING GROUPS!

Winning the GOLD this month for group growth is DENVER with another 16 new members. A close second winning the SILVER this month is MID AMERICA with 14, and a big congratulations to our BRONZE winner PLAINS & PEAKS with 8 new members!

REGIONAL GATHERING PLANNED

MID AMERICAN MENSA is planning a Regional Gathering for Labor Day, 2009. This mighty group puts on a great RG. Keep watching for details!

Plains and Peaks Mensa Officers

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Make A Difference Month

Make a Difference Month, where "The Power of One" - one person, one company, one group of friends, one sponsor, one congregation - can reach out to help those in need within our community.

Last year, more than 3,000 individuals volunteered! This year, it's our hope to get 1% of El Paso County residents to volunteer (that is more than 5,000 people)!

Why should individuals/groups get involved?

- ◆ Oftentimes, we want to "give back" to the community but struggle to find or create opportunities to do so. **Make A Difference Month** is filled with tangible ways to get involved with meeting the needs of people throughout our city.
- ◆ Projects made available from **local nonprofits** can expose volunteers to various missions and the people they serve day-in and day-out.
- ◆ Volunteers have opportunity to develop new skills or utilize ones that they may not exercise in everyday life.
- ◆ It can be utilized as a "team-building" opportunity for groups of many sizes.
- ◆ Be a part of the largest volunteer effort in our region and provide the "people-power" to accomplish significant city-wide services!

When do I/we need to sign up for projects? People can begin signing up for projects now. To do so, visit the website: www.volunteerpikespeak.org and login as a volunteer OR create a new volunteer profile.

Once you've logged in/registered, go to the bold blue heading that says "EVENTS" and under that you'll find **Make A Difference Month** details. Click on the prompts to choose from the various project options available. There you will also read what type of attire you'll need to wear and what things (if any) you'll need to bring for that particular project.

If you are signing up a group (as the point person), you'll need each individual's name and email address OR phone number in your group when you register on the website.

If you have a group that is larger than 25 people and need assistance, please contact Carrie McKee (carrie@ppunitedway.org or 955-0751) so we can find a project that fits your expectations.

What type of organizations might volunteers get to serve?



- ◆ Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- ◆ Mission Medical Clinic
- ◆ Colorado Parks and Recreation
- ◆ Partners in Housing
- ◆ Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Silver Key Senior Services

What types of projects might volunteers sign up to do?

1. Client Focused
 - Kid focused programming
 - Meal preparation for shelters/families
2. Indoor Improvements
 - Fall clean-up/stocking
 - Painting
 - Small building maintenance projects
3. Outdoor Improvements
 - Fencing
 - Playgrounds
 - Landscaping or Trails
4. Administrative
 - Mass mailing
 - Data Entry or Filing
 - Sorting/Organizing donated items

Can I/we sign up for more than one project? Absolutely! Sign up for as many dates and projects that you can realistically do between October 1st-31st.

Dues to Increase January 1

Inflation rates across the country have soared in the past year, and American Mensa has felt the impact throughout our budget. In the past year, expenses in areas including fuel, paper and postage have increased nearly 45%. We have balanced most of these increases by "tightening our belts" in every budget category, but a dues increase has still become necessary.

Effective January 1, annual dues will increase to \$59. Second family member rates will increase to \$39, 3-year memberships to \$160 and 5-year memberships to \$260.

Please note, you may renew at the current rates until December 31, 2008. Visit www.us.mensa.org/renew or call 888-294-8035 ext. 199 to renew this year and lock in current rates for a 3-year, 5-year or Life Membership.

October Calendar

Tuesday, Oct 7th, 8:00 pm: Reservations for ExComm Dinner!! Call Sandy at 528-5483 or email mandshalby@comcast.net to RSVP for October ExComm Meeting and Dinner at Pizzeria Rustica.

Wednesday, Oct 8th, 6:00 pm: October ExComm Meeting and Dinner. PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT THIS MONTH!! The October ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Pizzeria Rustica, 2527 West Colorado Ave (in Old Colorado City). Pizzeria Rustica has gotten rave reviews from both the Gazette and the Indy. For a peek at their menu and links to those rave reviews, go to www.pizzeriarustica.com.

Saturday, Oct 11th, 10:00 am: Main Monthly Meeting – Introduction to Geocaching! Fellow Plains & Peaks Mensan Dave Syndergaard will introduce us to the hobby of geocaching, which uses the Global Positioning System. We'll meet at Sandy's house (6066 Del Rey Dr, near Flintridge and Dublin) for a short introduction and geocaching "training session," then carpool up to Black Forest Regional Park and look for six geocaches. The total walking distance will be a little over a mile, so bring shoes suitable for hiking (nothing too strenuous), a snack, water, and a GPS receiver (if you have one - it's not required!). Some of these "caches" contain small toys or trinkets, which makes it great fun for kids. If you plan to trade trinkets, please bring something to leave behind -- on the order of a hot wheels car or "better" happy meal toys. If you'd like to program the geocaches into your receiver, contact Dave at davesyn@aol.com and he'll send you a list of the geocaches (names, geocaches numbers, and coordinates). For general information about geocaching, go to www.geocaching.com. Call Sandy (428-5483) or Dave (442-6451) if you have any questions.

Thursday, Oct 16th, 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, Oct 18th, 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, Oct 19th, 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 non-competitive Scrabble®. Sodas, wine and snacks provided. Allergy alert – cats and dogs!

Tuesday, Oct 21st, 6:00 pm: Trivia at TGI Fridays! We're playing NTN Buzztime Trivia at T.G.I. Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive (I-25 and Woodman). Good eats, good prices, and plenty of TVs to look at and control boxes to play with. Look for a Mensa "M" flag at a table in the bar and join us for a fast paced Trivia round!

Thursday, Oct 23rd, 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 Carlos Miguel's on Saturday!

Saturday, Oct 25th, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper at Carlos Miguel's. This Mexican restaurant was voted the best Mexican restaurant in Colorado Springs in 2006 and features traditional favorites like tacos, enchiladas, fajitas, burritos, chimichangas, plus other mouth-watering delights! You can visit www.restauranteur.com/carlosmiguelscos/ for a menu preview!

Advance Notice: Nov 6th, 6:00 pm: November ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The November ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Oscar's Oyster Bar, 333 South Tejon. Oscar's features fresh oysters, premium aged Angus steaks, and authentic Cajun food. Come during Happy Hour (4-7 pm) and enjoy two-4-one oysters, as well as discounted house wine and bottled beer. Visit www.oscarstejonstreet.com for a menu preview.



| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|--|--|-----|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 Reservations due for Ex- Comm Dinner 8:00 PM | 8 ExComm Meet- ing & Dinner @ Pizzeria Rustica 6:00 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 MMM Intro to Geocaching 10: AM |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Reservations due 8:00 PM for Texas Hold'em | 17 | 18 Texas Hold'em 6:00 PM |
| 19 Scrabble® @ Sandy's 1:00 PM | 20 | 21 Trivia @ TGI Fridays 6:00 PM | 22 | 23 Reservations due for USS 8:00 PM | 24 | 25 USS @ Carlos Miguel's 6:30 PM |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Welcome and Farewell

October Birthdays

FAREWELL TO:

Deborah Johnson, who is moving to Texas. Good luck to you, we'll miss you ... and keep in touch!!
Timothy Parker, who is moving to California. Farewell, Timothy.

WELCOME TO PLAINS & PEAKS MENSA:

Daniel Cockerham, who moved here from Hawaii (just in time for winter!). Hello!
Peter Thomas, who also joined us from across the ocean – the other ocean, though! Welcome!
Sebastian Dudek, from Ohio. Greeting!
John M Johnston, who hailed previously from California. Welcome to Colorado.
And, Jim Wallace, who joins us from Golden, Colorado, and is already familiar with our group. Hello, Jim, and welcome to Plains & Peaks Mensa.

WELCOME BACK TO:

Julia Hargrove, Stephen Pease, and Joseph Vaughan, who are rejoining our group. Hello, again!

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Larry Wayne Lewis | Oct 3 |
| Wade R Shelton | Oct 4 |
| Susan Pelto | Oct 8 |
| David Syndergaard | Oct 9 |
| Dorothy Versluis | Oct 9 |
| Stephen W Trolander | Oct 11 |
| Jenny Balderrama | Oct 13 |
| Betsy A Ogan | Oct 13 |
| Daniel Tapio | Oct 14 |
| Matthew Dickinson | Oct 15 |
| James Kwiecien | Oct 15 |
| Steven L Neidens | Oct 23 |
| Marietta Denniston | Oct 25 |

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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