

PlainsPeaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

LocSec Lowdown

Hello, fellow Mensans! I think I'm finally over my bout of pneumonia! Hurrah!! It's been a long recovery, but I've been told had I not had the pneumonia shot, it could have been worse. Now, to get back in shape in time for golf – which given our up and down weather, could be tomorrow or three months from now!

On to Mensa business ... we're introducing a new event this month – initially titled "Caffeine Conundrum"! John R. is leading this event (which we hope will become a monthly thing). The plan is to meet at one of the many coffee houses around town once a month, sample some coffee (or tea or whatever!) and foster lively discussion among Plains & Peaks members and their guests. The first order of business is deciding on an event name (hence the temporary title of "Caffeine Conundrum"!)). Check out the calendar for location and time!

Other events in February: GITBP at Storybook Brewing – which has been getting great reviews! We visited there about two years ago and it's time for a return trip! As for BurgerQuest, we're headed for the Skirted Heifer this month (I actually voted for the Public House, but George must not have gotten my vote!). Speaking of George, he and Chris will be hosting a Games Night in February! We'll also have our usual Trivial Pursuits and Ultimate Saturday Supper! And, be sure you check out the Advance Notice for March GITBP – it's a special one!!

We are also holding Mensa Admission Testing in February, so if you know of someone who would like to join Mensa, have them contact me for the details!

I recently sent out a simple survey (10 questions) to all our Local Group members and am waiting on the final results as I type this up. Preliminary results show that some of our members would like more "intellectual" activities. To be honest with you all, one of my major frustrations has been when I've scheduled a fantastic guest speaker (sometimes at someone's suggestion) and then it turns out only Mike and I (and maybe one or two others) show up! Kind of embarrassing ... here we are from Mensa, scheduling a great speaker and essentially no-one shows up ... and without group support (meaning attendance), I have a hard time justifying taking a speaker's time and effort for just three or four people.

I'd really like to get back to scheduling a guest speaker every couple of months – but I need your help. What topics might entice you to come to a meeting? Should I send out another survey with a list of suggested topics? What night of the week would work best? If **you** suggest a topic and I schedule a speaker, can I at least count on **you** to attend? I have great resources for expert speakers on a variety of topics – but again, I hesitate to ask any of them to put forth the effort if we don't have a good (if not great) attendance. Help!! What can I do? Any suggestions you have would be more than welcome! Just shoot me an e-mail or give me a call!

Along those same lines, our Mensa group, like most Mensa local groups, is primarily social. Some of us have been friends for years (like Al and I) or just a short time (like Jennifer W and I). We do try to make new members feel comfortable and welcome (Chris is great at that) – so why not pick an event, bring a friend, spouse, or SO and let us get to know you! The

old adage "The more the merrier" certainly applies to our Plains & Peaks group!

Looking ahead a bit – CultureQuest® will be on April 30th this year. We must have our teams formed and applications in by the end of March! For those not familiar with CultureQuest®, see the short article on [Page 3](#) in this newsletter!

Well, that's about all I can think of for now – hope to see you soon at a Mensa event!

~Sandy

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What's Up In Our Region

Greg Kontz Regional Vice Chair Heartland Region 7

RVC7 – LocSec 07/585
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Hi guys –

We had a board meeting December 10 in New Orleans. Susan and I got there at 10:00 Friday night instead of 2:00 in the afternoon because we were delayed getting out of Dickinson, ND. The de-icer solution they use on the plane was only rated to -25 degrees – it was -26. We had to wait for it to warm up to -25 before we could de-ice and leave... Anyway, board meeting outcomes:

- ◆ American Mensa approved the nominations of several people for the International Board. Those nominated will be in the minutes when they are posted.
- ◆ We passed a motion to make an official yearly calendar available to everyone that shows all planned meeting/event dates, due dates for various reports, requests, etc. Election information regarding dates also will be provided.
- ◆ Passed a motion to make Local Group websites officially permitted.
- ◆ Passed a motion to require all agenda items to state their relationship to the Strategic Plan.
- ◆ Passed a motion to increase dues from \$70 to \$79 effective July 1, 2017. The last raise was in 2011 so this basically matches the inflation from 2011 to 2017. This will be voted on for the second time at the April meeting. If it passes then, it's a done deal.
- ◆ There is a new requirement for people running for the board – whether you are running for RVC position or another one. If you run for RVC, you must accumulate 100 signatures on a petition. These can be accumulated either electronically or in writing. I intend to run again. You access the petitions by going to the National website and: CONNECT > BOARD CONTACTS > ELECTIONS > 2017 BOARD ELECTIONS > SIGN CANDIDATE PETITIONS. Then, if you are so inclined (and a Region 7 member), you can sign my petition. If not, you can at least see who is running for the various positions. us.mensa.org/petition?id=123

Our next Board meeting is in Hollywood, Florida on April 1.

**Later,
Greg Kontz**



Jennifer Browning	February 4
Mike Halby	February 5
Harry Brandon	February 9
Brent B Skrehart	February 12
Anita Louise Russell	February 17
Al Ackerson	February 19
David Haukom	February 20
Andrew Alexander	February 24
Frank W Shelton	February 26

NOTE: If your birthday isn't here, it's probably because that information is marked "non-releasable" on our rosters. To check your personal information release status, please contact American Mensa www.us.mensa.org or (1-800-66-MENSA) and under Member Resources, select the PDQ section.



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Plains & Peaks Patter

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JANUARY TRIVIAL PURSUITS! Nine of us competed against Carlos and his gang in January and we were victorious! Mark was the overall winner (Congrats, Mark!), with Mike, Jim and Louise coming in 2nd, 3rd and 4th! Regan, Victoria, Loren, Damon and Sandy all placed lower, but still contributed to Buffalo Wild Wings coming in 83rd on the nation-wide list! Way to go, Trivial Pursuitists!

MENSA ADMISSIONS TESTING. If you know someone who would like to test for Mensa membership, this is the day! Contact Sandy (mandshalby@comcast.net or 528-5483) for details.

HELP WANTED! Do you have a Media or Publicity background? Maybe that's something you'd like to try? If so, consider helping Plains & Peaks Mensa with Admissions Testing publicity! We're looking to increase our testing numbers and really need a hand with the publicity – ideas, contacts, someone to take this particular bull by the horns and wrestle around with it! And, bonus – this would look good on your resume or annual job appraisal! If you'd be interested in volunteering, contact Sandy at mandshalby@comcast.net!

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK! See photos of recent activities and meetings and get to know some of your fellow Mensans via this popular social site! It's a "closed" group so you have to ask to join. Search FB for "Plains & Peaks Mensa."

GET PUBLISHED! If you'd like to contribute to the PlainsPeaking newsletter, submit your article, poem, photo, puzzle, whatever to Betsy at bogan54@aol.com.

If you have an announcement or news item, please forward it to PlainsPeaking Editor Betsy Ogan (bogan54@aol.com) for inclusion in PlainsPeaking! And, don't forget, you can advertise your business in PlainsPeaking. The current rates are: business card size \$6, quarter page \$10, half page \$25 and full page \$50.

Mensa-versaries

Susan Coble
Scott Lee Mosher
Stanley Palmer
James Walter Kwiecien
Thomas Blomqvist
Jennie-Jo White
Ann Amicucci
Marcia M Carroll
Kirsten Messer

Peggy Pippin
Jerry Pulley
Susan Morris Mellow
Anita Louise Russell
Denise K Castle
Harry Brandon
Wesley Wilkerson
Marykatherine Moran
Jeanette Schroeder

February 2017

Trivia

by RC Timm

1. What will you eat if you order Welsh Rabbit?
2. What animal can live for the longest period of time without drinking water?
3. Name of the German gunboat in 'The African Queen'?
4. Neil Armstrong and Eugene Cernan, the first and last men to walk on the moon, graduated from what university?
5. Who is the first person to suggest the name Pluto for the newly discovered planet?
6. Who or what is TEOTWAWKI?
7. Why did Gene Roddenberry get half of the royalty's for Star Trek's theme song?
8. In a regular deck of cards, what was the original name for a Jack?
9. Pax, Usofa, Shu, Jean and Cassandra have what in common?
10. Name the boat(s) associated with Jacques Cousteau.



Bonus fact: Pluto was discovered on Feb 18, 1930

CultureQuest® XXVIII April 30

"Since its inception, more than 3,000 cultural questions have been answered by Mensan teams across the U.S. and Canada."

Plains & Peaks Mensa would like to field at least one team for CultureQuest® - two if we get enough folks! **Plains & Peaks Mensa will cover the \$50 per team fees.**

CultureQuest® - much more than just "trivia" questions – consists of over 300 questions answered as a team in just 90 minutes. And no reference materials are allowed! So, if you're up to the challenge – join in!! **Contact Sandy at 528-5483 or mandshalby@comcast.net by March 27th to join a team.**

You can also visit www.us.mensa.org for more info on this annual event! And, you can sign up the CultureQuest®-ion of the Day and check out past CultureQuest® questions!

ELIGIBILITY: A team may consist of up to five primary players, and up to two alternates. National membership rosters as of April 1, 2017 will be used to determine eligibility of each team member. An ineligible team member will be removed from the team and will not be eligible to play. If an ineligible team member plays, this will **DISQUALIFY** the whole team.

"**CultureQuest: Classic**" is open to all members regardless of age. Each team member must be a dues-paid Mensa member (U.S. or Canada) for the 2017-2018 membership year and must be renewed before April 1, 2017. "**CultureQuest: The Next Generation**" is the Youth Division. Entrants must have been born AFTER May, 1999. Only the Youth Division team captain must be a current Mensa member.

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February Events

Friday, February 3rd, 5pm: Give In To Beer Pressure! Our February GITBP is a trip down fairy tale road to Storybook Brewing (3121 A North El Paso Street), which features beers like Little Red's Rocking Ale, Gnomish Beer Goggles and The Last Straw-Berry Honey Wheat!



Storybook Brewing is a nano brewery with a 3 barrel brew house and all their beers are hand crafted with the freshest ingredients. As always, if you have an idea or new pub for Give In To Beer Pressure, let Sean know! Cell phone: (719) 651-6706 or Email: sean.mccormick.us@member.mensa.org

Tuesday, February 7th, 8pm: RSVP for ExComm Meeting & Dinner. Let Sandy know if you'll be at the ExComm Meeting and Dinner on Thursday! She can be reached at mandshalby@comcast.net or call 719-528-5483.

Thursday, February 9th, 6pm: ExComm Meeting & Dinner. In February, let's go to the Tsing Tao House, 3604-C Hartsel Drive (off Woodman between Lexington and Rangewood, in the King Soopers complex). There will be a very short business meeting and then dinner. Just a reminder - this event is open to all our Mensa members and their guests!

Saturday, February 11th, 6pm: RSVP for BurgerQuest 2017-02. (OK, it's the first meeting of 2017, but it IS the February meeting.) Reply "yes" as soon as you can, but no later than 6:00 PM today, February 11th, for tomorrow's meeting. Call George at 719-418-6073 (and leave a message), or send him an e-mail at gcooper@cooperplace.net. Forgot to reply? Come anyway, we'll fit you in. And plan to bring the young'uns, BurgerQuest is a kid-friendly event.



Sunday, February 12th, 1pm: BurgerQuest 2017-02. We're meeting at the Skirted Heifer, 204 N. Tejon St, Colorado Springs (there's a map on their website). RSVP by yesterday so we can let them know how many to expect, but even if you don't RSVP, come anyway, we'll make room. If you arrive early, please save some seats; the seating is rather limited. Be sure to bring the Cookie Crumblers, because BurgerQuest is a kid-friendly event.

Saturday, February 18th, 8:30am: Caffeine Conundrum! Start your weekend off with some great coffee, conversation, and company! John R. is leading this event for our coffee lovers (or tea! Or whatever!) and we'll be visiting different coffee houses around town once a month. The first order of business: what's the event's name? We chose Caffeine Conundrum for the first meeting – until we can get more input! The inaugural event will be at Peak Place, in their flagship location at 2360 Montebello Square Drive, Suite H1 (which is just off Academy and Montebello Drive West). Here's their web-site: www.peakplace.com/ See you there – bright and early!



Saturday, February 18th, 10am: Mensa Admissions Testing. If you know someone who would like to test for Mensa membership, this is the day! Contact Sandy (mandshalby@comcast.net or 528-5483) for details.

Saturday, February 18th, 7pm: Games & Poker Night. Chris and George will be hosting Games & Poker Night! They will have chips (poker and snack type), and unmarked cards. If you prefer to play a board game, they have plenty. Bring a favorite one if you like. Those who prefer not to play any game, just come socialize. Coopers have comfy furniture! Come play, snack, drink, and gab. The Coopers will supply the snacks; you supply your beverage. Children are invited. Please RSVP by Thursday, February 16th, to shedonist@cooperplace.net or 719-646-4456. The Coopers live at 1105 Bowstring Road, Monument.



Monday, February 20th, 8pm: RSVP for Trivial Pursuits. Give Al a call at 719-465-3747 or e-mail him at alackerson@msn.com to let him know to save a chair for you at Trivial Pursuits on Tuesday!

Tuesday, February 21st, 6:00pm: Trivial Pursuits. We're playing Show-down, a 6-stage trivia contest featuring a wide variety of topics, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 2905 Geyser Drive (at I-25 and Lake, next to Outback Steaks and Tinseltown) – they claim to have 45 players and Wi-Fi so everybody should be able to play! We're drinking some adult beverages (if you want to) and noshing on wings and other Buffalo Wild Wings specialty foods like burgers and sandwiches! The actual game starts at 6:30pm, but if you want a game player you probably should get there earlier! Call or e-mail Al (719-465-3747, alackerson@msn.com) to let him know you'll be there!



Saturday, February 25th, 6pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper! Let's try Till Kitchen, 9633 Prominent Point (off Powers and Briargate Parkway). TK features American comfort food with a country twist, using "responsibly sourced food, freshly crafted cuisine and an extensive wine selection that connects you to the best of Colorado." Till Kitchen also boasts their salmon is wild-caught and their meats and poultry are pasture-raised and hormone free. As usual contact Al (465-3747, alackerson@msn.com) to reserve your place at the table.

Advance Notice: Friday, March 3rd, 5:30 – 8:30 pm: Give In To Beer Pressure. A very special GITBP in March – Ed Herlik will host an Irish-themed Beer Pressure at his house (near Powers and North Carefree) – in his personal pub! This is the third time our St. Patrick's Beer Pressure will be at the Herlik's. Bring your beer of your choice – and if you're a brewer, bring your best and/or latest batch of beer for us to sample! Also note we're starting half an hour later to accommodate brewery stops on the way to GITBP for those wanting to bring something from a local brew pub. Bring munchies if you like but it's not necessary. Ed's pub can only hold 14 people, so please RSVP by email to Herlik@aol.com ... first come, first reserved. Ed will confirm receipt by sending directions. If you have an idea or new pub for Give In To Beer Pressure, let Sean know! Cell phone: (719) 651-6706 or Email: sean.mccormick.us@member.mensa.org

Advance Notice: Tuesday, March 7th, 6pm: ExComm Meeting & Dinner. Let's visit one of the newest restaurants in Colorado Springs, Arabian Nights, located at 8029 N Academy Blvd. As you can guess from the name, they serve Middle-Eastern food! And as usual, there will be a very short business meeting and then dinner. Just a reminder - this event is open to all our Mensa members and their guests!

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 5:00 PM Give In To Beer Pressure @ Storybook Brewing	4
5	6	7	8	9 6:00 PM ExComm Meeting/Dinner @ Tsing Tao House	10	11 RSVP For BurgerQuest
12 1:00 PM BurgerQuest @ Skirted Heifer	13	14	15	16 RSVP For Games Night	17	18 8:30 AM Caffeine Conundrum 7:00 PM Games/Poker Night
19	20	21 6:00 PM Trivial Pursuits @ Buffalo Wild Wings	22	23 RSVP For Ultimate Saturday Supper	24	25 6:00 PM Ultimate Saturday Supper @ Till Kitchen
26	27	28				10:00 AM Mensa Testing February 18th

BurgerQuest 2017



2016 Had No Best Burger Joint!

Despite Sandy's reminder and request, there was only one response to Sandy's voting reminder, but was for The Skirted Heifer, which we visited in October, 2014, and was therefore not eligible for Best of 2016. (no votes were cast for best burger joint for 2016. Your host's choice would have been the Public House. Then the dreaded cold/flu season arrived with a vengeance at the Cooper household, and the obvious solution was to skip the January meeting. Perhaps we can do better this year by voting during the November meeting, or maybe even just eliminating the "Best Of" altogether.

So with a nod to the person who suggested the Skirted Heifer, let's go back there in February. The Skirted Heifer, at 204 N. Tejon St, Colorado Springs (there's a map on their website, see below). The Colorado Springs Gazette reviewed it at length a few years ago, gave it a nice evaluation, and summarized: Restaurant character: Small casual, family-friendly, appeals to carnivores and vegetarians alike. Orders placed at the counter for dine-in or takeout. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/heo7hmz> (Gazette review from 2014) or the restaurant's website at <http://skirtedheifer.com/#home>.

RSVP by 6:00 Saturday, February 11 if you can, but please attend anyway. Bring your rug-rats, BurgerQuest is a kid-friendly event.

Answers to Trivia

1. aka Welsh Rarebit, it's a meatless dish consisting of cheese on toast.
2. Kangaroo rat
3. Königin Luise (German for "Queen Louisa")
4. Perdue University
5. Veneta Burney, according to V. M. Slipher at the Lowell Observatory.
6. The End Of The World As We Know It. It is used online by members of survivalist groups.
7. He wrote the lyrics, they are silly and never appear anywhere ... but he still grabbed the cash.
8. Knave
9. All were proposed names for Pluto.
10. The Calypso

Trivia

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