

1 C R M S Q U O O K

Volume 35, Number 10

The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa March-April, 2007

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

ELLENSBURG BRUNCH: The first Saturday at 11:00 am, at The Palace Café 323 N Main St Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-2327 thepalacecafe.net The table will be marked with two wine glasses turned upside down. If you want to make a trip of it, you could come for the First Friday Art Walk and stay for Mensa Brunch on Saturday. Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact: EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org Regarding share rides: locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING 6:00 p.m.: March – 3 Margaritas, Richland 946-7755, 627 Jadwin Ave. 3 Margaritas is a well-known local standby for excellent Mexican food, corner of Jadwin and Lee. (There is one in Kennewick too, but this time we are at the Richland one...)

Suggestions for next 3 dinner meetings:

April: Blue Goose restaurant, 306 7th Street, Prosser - 786-1774. From Tri-Cities, take I-82 towards Yakima, get off on the first Prosser exit, #82, turn left onto Wine Country Road, one block before you get to the first traffic light on WCR, turn left onto 7th Street, you will see Blue Goose on your left, close to WCR.

May: Red Lion Hotel dining room, Richland (also known as the Hanford House)

June: Heritage Restaurant, Toppenish

Other suggestions are welcome. Email Mark Mitchell at Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.

From Loc Sec: First, sorry this issue is way late getting to you – I have been pretty busy with the “day job”. Second, its spring, the weather is good, is anyone interested in doing something outdoors some weekend day?

I’m sending out to a mailing list that has been passed down from LocSec to LocSec, if you have an alternative email address, or have changed email addresses, or plan to, let me know.

Spring Admissions Testing: KVEW TV is planning to interview Tim Dees just before our spring tests – Thanks, Tim, for taking this on! I will try to send out an email saying what day the interview will be, as of now, it’s TBD.

A test is planned on April 21st, 1:00, Richland Library.

Another test planned on May 5th, 1:30, Hal Holmes Center, (library) Ellensburg.
(Room reserved from 1-3:30.)

We are considering a test in Yakima

The Advance Agenda for the American Mensa Committee meeting in Oak Brook, Illinois on March 25, 2007, is now posted on the Web site.

Visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/amc>, select Meeting Reports from the left menu, and then 2007-03 Meeting Reports. If you've misplaced your login information, contact webservices at americanmensa.org.

Let me know if you have any problems accessing the agenda.

Please write to your RVC or any member of the AMC with your input on any of the agenda items.

Best regards,

Marc Lederman, Secretary

Northwest Passages

by John Recht

RVC, Region 8

rvc8@us.mensa.org

This month I am in hurry-up mode to file my column, as I am booked to fly early tomorrow morning on my first-ever trip to Japan. When I get to Tokyo, I will catch

a train north to be with my daughter, Josie, in Ojiya-shi. Before my Mensan daughter and I ride the rails south to visit Hiroshima, Kobe, and Tokyo, I will have had the rare opportunity to experience an enkai, a singular event which is very much a part of Japanese culture; you will find a description of it on my blog at www.johnrecht.com. When you check my Web site, you'll probably find my photos posted as well.

Not long after my return from Japan, my long March will continue with a visit to my home town, Chicago, where Colloquium 2007 awaits. I'll share my impressions of that event, and the American Mensa Committee meeting immediately following, in my May column. This will be the last meeting of the current AMC term, and I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the past two years, and to look ahead at some things I would like to see in the coming term, in which I will have the honor to represent Region 8 once more as your RVC.



**Holiday Inn – Portland Airport
May 11-13, 2007**

Oregon Mensa invites you to share in our appreciation of the beautiful Pacific Northwest at our tenth consecutive Regional Gathering. Our theme of Sheer Decadence is sure to provide something to satisfy your guilty pleasures.

Name(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Include your information in the 2007 Oregon RG Directory? Yes _____ No _____

REGISTRATION ONLY: _____ X = \$ _____
\$80 by 4/30/07: \$90 after

MEALS: Saturday Banquet _____ X \$33 = \$ _____
Sunday Brunch _____ X \$22 = \$ _____

TOURS: Winery Tour (sign up by 3/31/07) _____ X \$79 = \$ _____
Brewery Tour _____ X \$4 = \$ _____

T-Shirt (order by 2/28/07 to make sure you get your size) _____ X \$10 = \$ _____
Circle your size(s): Mens S M L XL XXL _____ X \$10 = \$ _____
Women's S M L XL

TOTAL SUBMITTED: _____ = \$ _____

Please return this form and your check (payable to Oregon Mensa RG) or credit card information to:
Steve Darnell, 3011 NW 23rd Avenue, Camas, WA 98607

Questions? Phone: 360-834-6020 E-Mail: financialwizard2@comcast.net
Or visit: www.oregon.us.mensa.org

Using PayPal: Direct your payment to John Recht, at john.recht@gmail.com. Be sure to include your registration info in the message section.

If paying by credit card, provide the following:

Card type (please circle) Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Cardholder name (please print) _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date (mm/yy) _____

Signature of cardholder _____

Although my election is over, I urge you all to vote in April in both the national and international elections. Please read the candidates' statements, and help all of Mensa by choosing those you think will do the job the way it ought to be done. In the last heavily contested international election, American Mensa was outvoted by British Mensa, even though our membership outnumbers theirs by 2 to 1. Our votes can make a difference.

In closing, I should first note that the Region 8 Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in Portland was a solid success, judging by the evaluations of the attendees. The LDW session most often cited as most useful was "Getting People Involved," presented by Debra Reiger. I was delighted and gratified to have had the opportunity to spend the weekend with such a great group of Mensans, and I expect that the energy and enthusiasm that was so evident at the LDW will continue to pay dividends for all of our Local Groups in the region in the years to come.

Lastly, if you would like to make the most of your Mensa membership, I can think of no better way than to come to a gathering, and there is a superb one right around the corner. Now is the time for all good Mensans to come to the Oregon Mensa RG, May 11-13, 2007, in Portland, OR. Time is running short, so don't delay - go to <http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org/rg/index.php> today, and register for what promises to be a sheer delight. Hope to see you there....

Do you enjoy Mensa because other members get your jokes? Then have we got an event for you! Now's the time to sign up for Colloquium 2007: Aspects of Humor: The Art and Science of Laughter. This weekend event will take place March 23-25 in Chicago -- but registration fees go up by \$50 on Thursday, Feb. 15!

Visit www.colloquium.us.mensa.org for program details, updates, and registration. We've also arranged a meal plan with some highly delectable choices.



PONDERISMS

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?"

Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Great news!

Last fall, we were discussing member concerns about finding information on the Web site, and it struck us that the members who weren't able to find things were our officers and volunteers. No, not because you aren't capable -- because there's a LOT of information on our Web sites and weeding through can be a challenge. What you couldn't find happened to be the resources you need most.

That was our aha! moment. It was also the moment where we took a step back to look at the old red/white/blue site (www.previous.us.mensa.org <www.previous.us.mensa.org> if you've forgotten) and when our newest resource came into being, conceptually at least.

Our Officer Resources and Web Services have transitioned to their new home: "Inside AML" at www.insideaml.us.mensa.org www.insideaml.us.mensa.org>

Links will still be available from the main site and our shortcuts will still function, but much of the volunteer-related content will find a home at this new site, geared specifically for officers and volunteers.

Some things to note about the new site:

* We're very pleased to have a new home for the Leadership Committee's online debut of their training PowerPoint "Getting People Involved," appropriately under Extra Credit!

* Our promised Prospect Tracking and Offers Tracking are under Tools. Specific group officers have up-to-the-business-day access to prospects and offers of membership with some minor tracking tools and the ability to download lists as they wish. (Yes, there's a bit of foreshadowing here.)

* If you're an officer looking for the latest ASIEs, you can find them under Policy Documents or via www.us.mensa.org/ASIEs <www.us.mensa.org/ASIEs>

* We're not done with the additions and changes, and we're keeping notes. If you have a suggestion, send it on. It may not be a this week or a this month project, but we'll look at our development schedule and see how it might fit.

Best regards,
Howard

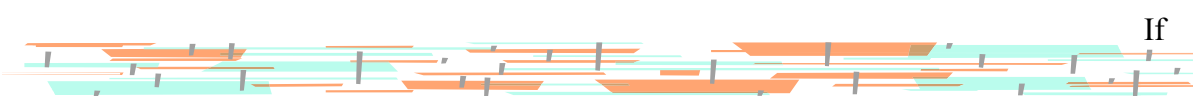
J. Howard Prince
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P.S.: If you want a REAL blast from the past, check out our Web site prior to 2000 and see how far we've come. It's at www.previous.us.mensa.org/previous <www.previous.us.mensa.org/previous

Mind Games 2007

Registration for Mind Games 2007 is filling up fast and spaces are limited! To ensure your spot at this exciting event, register today at www.mindgames.us.mensa.org. Registration is \$70 until April 4th which includes 2 meals, hospitality, door prizes, and round-the-clock game play.

Mind Games will be held April 20-22 in Pittsburgh. During the the 3-day event, participants will play and rate the year's newest board games. At the end of the weekend, Mensans will vote for the 5 games that will bear the Mensa Select seal for 2007.



If
you have any questions about the event, contact event chair Trebor McGale at mgchair@mindgames.us.mensa.org.

International Journal

The March issue of the International Journal is now online at www.us.mensa.org/ij
<www.us.mensa.org/ij> You'll want to select IJ Online Library from the left menu.

For any questions or comments about the International Journal, please contact Editor Kate Nacard at ijeditor@mensa.org. If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email WebServices@americanmensa.org.



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