

CRM

Volume 42, Number 17 The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa May-June, 2008

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

ELLENSBURG BRUNCH: The first Saturday at 11:00 am, at Café Nicholas

601 W. University Way Café Nicholas is a small ramshackle, blue-grey building on the North side of the street.

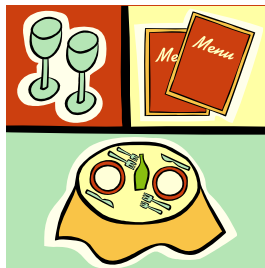
From I-90 Exit 109, turn North onto Canyon Road. Canyon turns into Main St. Continue on this road for about 2.3 miles to University Way, which used to be called E. 8th Ave. (about 2.3 miles). Turn left (West) onto University for 0.3 miles.

From I-90 Exit 106, turn North onto University Way, which used to be called Cascade Way and E. 8th Ave. Continue for a fair bit—about 2.5 miles.

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. the 4th Saturday of each month:

May: Mandarin House, 1035 Lee Blvd, Richland

June: Heritage Restaurant, Yakama Cultural Center, Toppenish

July: El Chapala, 107 E Columbia Dr, Kennewick

August: Blue Goose, 306 7th St, Prosser

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

WEBSITE REMINDERS

If you have forgotten where the next meeting will be and have lost your newsletter, don't panic - our website (<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>) now has all upcoming events shown on the front page.





Mensa Admissions Test Coming Up

Please tell all your smart friends about these tests, and help us balance the female roster!!

A Mensa test is planned in Richland on May 24th, 1:30, 2148 Hoxie Avenue (this may change; please keep in touch). Contact 509-946-8309, or testing@crm.us.mensa.org, regarding

this test

The national group's chapter, which limits membership to people whose test score is in the top 2 percent of scores, meets in our area for social gatherings. Members are also able to attend other group's activities.

For details, email testing@crm.us.mensa.org or call 509-933-3117. The test takes about 2 hours and costs \$40.

AML has announced an exciting Spring Doubleheader testing event. Anyone who buys a Mensa Home Test in the month of May will receive \$5 off (regular price \$18). Then, if they return the completed Home Test before June 30, they'll receive a coupon worth \$5 off the Mensa Admission Test (regular price \$40) which will be valid until August 31.

A press release about the Spring Doubleheader is posted at www.us.mensa.org/newsroom. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Lauren Fernandez
American Mensa, Ltd.
Marketing Assistant
laurenf@americanmensa.org
(817)607-0060 ext. 5542
www.us.mensa.org

Did you know: You don't have to take the Mensa test to join Mensa! Visit www.us.mensa.org/testscores to find a partial listing of accepted tests and scores.

It is with great sadness that we share news of the death of former Mensa Chairman Darlene Criss.

Darlene was a member of Mensa for more than 30 years. She was committed to Mensa and held nearly every office within the organization including LocSec, Editor, Proctor, Regional Vice Chairman, Secretary, First Vice Chairman and Chairman. She was editor of the Isolated M newsletter for 12 years, editor of the *Mensa Bulletin* for 2 years and served on many committees including Hearings, Name and Logo, Nominating and Awards. In addition, she served as an American NatRep to Mensa International and served on the International Mensa Name & Logo committee for many years. In 2001, she was honored with the Margot Award, the most prestigious award given for service to Mensa.

Darlene was a bright and caring person, dedicated to her family, her friends and her students. She will be missed by many.

Darlene's family has created an online journal and guestbook. If you would like to share a remembrance of Darlene, please visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/darlenecriss

Project Inkslinger

Dear Mensans,

The following message came in from Paul Jensen, American Mensa's Project Inkslinger Coordinator. If you would, please consider sending books to the school, and publish this information in your Local Group newsletters and websites. If you send books to the school, please let Paul know the details. Contact Paul at inkslinger@us.mensa.org .

Respectfully,

Michael Paul Beetham

Chair, Community Services Committee, communityservices@us.mensa.org .

I found someone we can serve with Project Inkslinger. Recent flooding totally destroyed the school library at an elementary school in Watseka, Illinois: all books, shelves, fixtures were ruined. The January floods put 5 feet of water in the lower area library in Nettie Davis Elementary School, 495 N. 4th St., Watseka IL 60970.

Donated books should cover K-5, although the 200 K-1 kids need them most! Books should be sent to the school, attention Robert Walter, Principal. The contact number if needed is 815-432-4581. I recall from the procedure that the groups are responsible for all transportation costs. Books sent should be sent in box sizes of 20-30 lb. maximum weight. I continue to search for others in need of our services.

Paul Jensen

Issue 2, 2008 of Mensa World is now available at <http://www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld> Select the Online Library from the left menu.

For any questions or comments about Mensa World, please contact Editor Kathy Spaltro at <mensaworld@mensa.org>. If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email <WebServices@americanmensa.org>.

Mini Minutes of the March 29, 2008 AMC meeting are now online.

Visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports>
<<http://www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports>> Then select 2008-03 Meeting Reports and then Mini Minutes.

You'll need to log in to the Web site to access this document. If you don't have your login information available, please contact WebServices@americanmensa.org or call 888/294-8035 x5005.

Howard

J. Howard Prince

Director of Operations

American Mensa, Ltd.

howardp@americanmensa.org

Planning a vacation -- to the AG in Denver or otherwise? Got a business trip coming up? Or just need to get away this weekend? American Mensa is partnering with the YTB Travel Network to provide an entire Web site, www.us.mensa.org/travel, to handle all of your travel-related needs. At this fully integrated site, you can:

- Book your flight, hotel and car for any trip;
- Search for cruise deals, international vacation packages and last-minute getaways;
- Process online flight check-in;
- Track traveler health advisories, passport requirements and airport delays;
- Sign up for a weekly "deals & steals" e-newsletter;
- Purchase flowers and concert tickets; and even
- Set up a honeymoon travel registry.

If all else fails, you can amuse yourself reading about the great locations and keeping an eye out for "punderful" package titles like "Salmon-chanted Evening" (to Nova Scotia) and "Mexico: A State of Mayan."

Created to cater specifically to the needs of association members, the YTB Travel Network is a subgroup of a large, internationally known travel Web site. And here's a great side benefit: Not only can you take care of all your travel arrangements in one location, but every time something is purchased through www.us.mensa.org/travel, American Mensa receives a portion of the commissions paid. So when you need to travel, now you know where to start. Enjoy your trips and don't forget to save our American Mensa Travel icon to your desktop!!



Northwest Passages
by John Recht
RVC, Region 8
rvc8@us.mensa.org

San Francisco was as beautiful as ever when the American Mensa Committee (AMC) arrived for our board meeting at the end of March. Whenever we were not hard at work in the Holiday Inn's windowless meeting rooms, we would gather in the hospitality suite with its glorious views of Nob Hill, downtown San Francisco, and San Francisco Bay.

While we visited with local Mensa members in the suite, we were treated to a delightful array of refreshments provided by our hosts, San Francisco Regional Mensa (SFRM). Many thanks to SFRM Board Member Michael Eager, who served admirably as the AMC Meeting Coordinator; to SFRM Scribe Susan Heimlich and SFRM Board Member Barbara Canup, who helped out throughout the weekend; and to SFRM LocSec Alan Winson for all his efforts. My fellow AMC members and I appreciated how much you all did to help make our stay comfortable, enjoyable, and productive.

As usual, the AMC meeting had a packed agenda. Here are some of the items the AMC discussed during the meeting, and what their impacts are likely to be:

Executive Director Pam Donahoo gave a report presenting the research that has been done on testing so far and the plans involving testing in American Mensa for the coming year. This led to a wide-ranging and thorough discussion by the AMC. The summary of the points raised during the discussion will be reviewed by the National Office and the Planning Committee, and recommendations for actions

supporting our testing program in the near term will be forthcoming.

Dave Remine, Chair of the Hearings Process Review Committee, facilitated the next discussion. The recommendations of Dave's committee are intended to simplify and streamline the hearings process for the benefit of all Mensa members, while reducing the burden on the volunteers who serve on the Hearings Committee. Dave presented the alternatives under consideration by the committee, and asked the AMC for feedback. The responses from AMC members will help the committee make some key decisions as they continue with their work.

A third discussion item concerned the short-term goal of bringing American Mensa's business practices into the 21st century. I facilitated the discussion on behalf of the Planning Committee. The AMC generally agreed that new methods and new technologies would be at the heart of our efforts to communicate with members at all levels of American Mensa and Mensa International. We discussed a variety of new communication methods and how to use them: cell phones, forums on the Web, podcasts, YouTube promotions, electronic groups, and social networking sites will all be in the mix. At the same time, we noted that we have to pay attention to our business practices, clarify our relationships and protect what is integral to our culture. This is an area in which American Mensa will see a great deal of change and growth in the near future.

The last discussion item on the agenda brought TeenSIG Coordinator Alexis Wise to the table, and Alexis made a terrific impression on all present as she spoke about issues involving teens in Mensa. The discussion turned on current plans for recruiting and involving teens at the local and national levels, how TeenSIG can help, and what can be done to assure that issues relevant to teen Mensa members and prospective members will be addressed. What the AMC hopes to see as a result is better coordination among the various committees, groups, and individuals concerned with assisting teens, and new resources and opportunities for participation for teens in Mensa at all levels.

Under new business, the AMC considered the question of approval of the budget for the new fiscal year that began April 1. There was one provision in the budget that was closely questioned, and that was to provide \$35,000 for a consulting firm to study the issue of governance in Mensa and to make recommendations for changes that would allow us to streamline our operations and to increase our efficiency. This question has been taken up by the AMC in the past and failed every time, yet it has kept coming back because in the judgment of the AMC there are great opportunities for improvement. A majority voted to keep the item in the budget, and Tecker Consultants was selected by the Planning Committee to conduct the study. There will be much more to come on this topic as Tecker begins its work, and I will discuss this effort in detail in upcoming columns.

The last business item that I will specifically mention here was the recommendation of the Finance Committee for a dues increase to \$59 per year, effective with the 2009-2010 dues year. This, by the way, has nothing to do with the cost of the consultant, which will be a one-time-only expenditure of about 1% of the total budget for one year, and which, it is hoped, will be repaid by savings from improvements in our operations. The reason for the proposed dues increase was that we had reached the point in our revenue and budgeting cycle when the impact of the previous increase no longer allowed us to operate without dipping into our reserves. The Finance Committee also felt that a larger increase would be more acceptable than several smaller increases. Any proposal for a dues increase must appear on two consecutive agendas, so this item was automatically carried over to the agenda for the July meeting at the AG.

There were quite a few other items on the agenda, but I haven't the space to go into them here. If you have questions or comments about what we covered at the AMC meeting, please email me at rvc8@us.mensa.org. In addition, please watch for new Web pages on the AML Web site that will discuss our strategic planning efforts in more detail, and which will talk about ways in which you could take part in planning Mensa's future. Finally, I hope to see you at the Oregon Mensa's RG during the first weekend in May, and I'll be happy to discuss all this in person. Hope to see you there!



The Biggest Little Reno Gathering: Come Play With Us!

You know you want to do it, so register now and come out early for the first ever Reno Regional Gathering. The party is being held October 3-5, 2008, in Reno, Nevada at the fabulous Silver Legacy Resort in the heart of downtown. The Silver Legacy is the center of a three casino complex, all owned by the same people, so the whole place will be our playground. With over 22 restaurants to choose from and entertainment around every corner, you can't lose when it comes to having fun.

You will love the choices of tours being offered with a Cruise of the beautiful blue waters of Lake Tahoe amid the mountains of two states, or take a trip back in time to Mark Twain's old stomping grounds, Comstock/Virginia City. For the more adventurous, see what the inside of a brothel looks like and find out what really goes on in there... aside from the obvious.

It would be hard to imagine better prices on Tahoe Queen tickets and we have arranged the necessary transportation.

The Tahoe Queen day cruise is \$55.00 each, which includes the transportation to and from the beautiful Lake Tahoe launch site, and the ticket for the cruise.

The Virginia City trip is only \$20.00, and the adults only Brothel tour is also an unbelievable \$20.00. There are meals available at each tour location, but they are not included in the price.

Our Tour Chairman, the irrepressible Reno Ron, has the trip arranged so that everyone should get a look at gorgeous Lake Tahoe, everyone should be able to get a look at the outside of a brothel and everyone should get some time in Virginia City. The difference in the tours being the amount of time and level of involvement on your chosen tour. The Tahoe Queen people will get the cruise, the brothel tour will get to go inside and the Virginia City folks can wander the Comstock to their hearts content.

For those who's interests are automotive or the Arts, or for those short time frames when opportunity presents, there are guided or self tours of the National Automobile Museum and Nevada Museum of Art.

Get those registrations IN if you want to sign up for the limited (30-40) seating Texas Hold 'em Tournament, hosted by that card shuffler himself, Reno Ron, champion of many tournaments and an always willing to play kind of guy. You will also be able to attend classes on how to play your favorite gambling game taught by professional dealers.

Don't miss the opportunity to go on a Friday night Pub Crawl with the famous Itinerant Pub Crawl Maestro Reno Ron. You can not possibly experience a deeper, more grass roots look at Reno Downtown than this. It is Legendary!

For your education and edification you will be able to listen to a wide variety of speakers on topics such as: Alternative Energy, Burning Man, Electric Cars, Belly Dance, the Power of the Mind to Heal, Aboriginal Canadian Women and Challenges they face. Take some good green hints from the Portable Environmentalist, experience a Chautauqua presentation about Donner Party Survivors. Listen to a local Mensan who faced his own challenges and trained his service dog to help, and Go Inside China and Tibet during the recent critical times. More being scheduled every day.

Author of *Plug-in Hybrids: The Cars that will Recharge America*, Sherry Boschert has kindly consented to interrupt her busy schedule and travel to Reno to speak at our Gathering. Sherry is very close to the pulse of alternative vehicle news and has been a proponent of electric cars and breaking our dependence on oil for many years. Reno's own Alternative Transportation Club will be on hand to demonstrate various alternative fuel/power source vehicles after Sherry's presentation.

The Burning Man presentation and slide show is worth the registration price all by itself. Come see why thousands of people band together on the playa of Black Rock Desert every year amongst the dust and scorching heat. If you have always wanted to know what goes on out there on the playa, but couldn't convince yourself to go. Here's your chance. Northern Nevada Mensa's Photographic Artist in Residence, Bill K, will give the slide show and lecture, based on multiple years of attendance. Immediately afterwards we will conduct an auction for his incredible one-of-kind 2' x 3' poster *Reno RG, Feel the Burn*.

Rather than having the Traditional Banquet and due to the abundance(22+) of fine eating establishments in this three-casino complex, we will be doing a "Dining Out" night on Saturday, with sign up sheets for those who wish to go as a group, and by doing that you will have the best choice of meals, for the best price.

Our Hospitality Suite will be open 24 hours a day and stocked with snacks and drinks of the finest variety, along with the best conversation to be found. The Suite chosen has spectacular views from the 35th floor looking out over what is sure to be splendid fall foliage surrounding the University of Nevada Reno. There will be plenty of seating for those conversations that only Mensans can get into, and room for just plain relaxing. I think that you will all find this to be one of the very finest Hospitalities at an RG, ever.

We have learned that REO Speedwagon is performing Friday 3 October and Bill Engvall will be doing his act on Saturday the 4th for those who wish to catch a show. Also showing will be the Comedy Club in the Silver Legacy with various stars performing, and a host of venues within a short walk along Virginia Street.

We are planning to hold a Mensa Testing session during the RG, most likely on Saturday morning, but if there are enough people who want to test, or have a problem with Saturday morning we can make other arrangements. Test applicants must bring Identification and the cost is \$40.00. Tests take approximately two hours.

If you have a prospective member please have them contact our Webmaster at the address below for scheduling.

Please check our Northern Nevada Mensa website for the latest updates
<http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/>

* **Note:** By the time you read this we should have a Paypal link activated so that you may Register and Pay online.

We have a sweet T-shirt deal in the works so check the N.NV website frequently for the latest news.

We are working hard to arrange the fun, but we need YOU to Come Play With Us!

Registration is \$60 until 5/31/08; June/July \$75; August/September and at the door \$90.

Reservations: http://www.silverlegacyreno.com/index_noflash.aspx

Room rate \$99.99 SR/DR with "Mensa08" code.

***Note:**

You may be able to get a cheaper rate via AAA or AARP. It will NOT hurt our room count as long as you are registered for the RG(per our written contract), so go for it!

* Rates quoted are for single/double occupancy. Each additional person is \$10 per room, per night plus tax. Maximum four (4) people per room.

All rates are subject to Washoe County room tax, currently at thirteen and one-half percent (13.5%),

subject to change.

All rates are subject to a \$3.00 per room, per night resort fee. This resort fee provides guests with round-trip airport shuttle service 19 hours per day, both covered valet and covered self parking, and unlimited local phone calls.

Room rate guaranteed until 9/03/2008

Frequently asked questions: <http://www.silverlegacyreno.com/faqs/>

Northern Nevada website <http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/>

You can find and print a registration form on the Northern Nevada website and send with your check (make checks payable to Northern Nevada Mensa) to:

Registrar:

Anna Wright
510 Michael Drive
Fallon, NV 89406-5726
(775)423-4694

for more information contact;

Webmaster@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

RGChair@northernnevada.us.mensa.orgWebmaster@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Colloquium 2008, *Tracking Granny's Granny: The Genealogy Quest*, will take place Sept. 12-14 in Salt Lake City. Spend a weekend in this world-renowned center of genealogical research, where you'll find millions of historical records at your fingertips. Attend sessions given by specialists in the field, covering the methodology and accuracy of your research, solving problems related to evidence and dead-end leads, and using the Internet to your best advantage. Join your fellow Mensans to discover new techniques, share your stories, and learn how to pursue your own unique family history.

Here is a list of Colloquium speakers confirmed to date:

Christine Rose will present *Problem Solving: Strategies for Success*

Colleen Fitzpatrick will present two program, *A Different Kind of DNA Talk* and *You Will Never Look at Your Old Photos the Same Way Again!*

James W. Warren will present *If Your Ancestors Had Email* featuring stories of the weird and wonderful discoveries genealogists make and what can be learned from them.

Sharon Carmack will present *He Lived, He Married, He Died...But I Want More!*

Colloquium 2008 will be held at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center. Mensan registration is \$170 through April 30. To learn more about the program and to register, visit www.colloquium.us.mensa.org.

Jill Beckham jillb@americanmensa.org
Foundation Director 817-607-0060 x 5509
American Mensa Ltd. www.us.mensa.org

Support students, teachers and researchers! Donate to the Mensa Foundation at www.mensafoundation.org and click on "Make a Donation."

The Mensa Research Journal unlocks the door to your own knowledge and understanding. Subscribe Today at www.mensafoundation.org

Inn (<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/pdxap>) at the Portland airport (8439 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97220, 503-256-5000 for registrations at the Oregon Mensa room rate of \$89/night plus tax until 4/20/07) with plenty of free parking. Our dinner will be a buffet (including salmon) for \$33.



Dates to Ponder

- May 4 – Horace Mann birth anniversary (1796) – known as the *father of public education*
- May 8 – No Socks Day
- May 11 – Jamestown Landing Day, 1607
- May 12 – Limerick Day – Try your hand at one
- May 14 – Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit birth anniversary (1686)
- May 18 – Mt. Saint Helens’ eruption anniversary (1980)
- May 24 – First telegraph line formally opened between Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, 1844
- May 25 – Constitutional Convention opened in Philadelphia, 1787
- May 27 – Amelia Bloomer birth anniversary (1818)
- May 30 – First American daily newspaper published, 1896; *The Pennsylvania Evening Post*
- June 4 – Tiananmen Square Massacre anniversary (1989)
- June 5 – First hot air balloon flight at Annonay, France, 1783
- June 8 – Frank Lloyd Wright birth anniversary (1867)
- June 9 – Donald Duck “birth” anniversary (1934)
- June 13 – Miranda Decision anniversary (1966)
- June 14 – Flag Day – Begun in 1777 by a resolution introduced to the Continental Congress by John Adams
- June 18 – War of 1812 declared
- June 21 – Jean Paul Sartre birth anniversary (1905); *Father of Existentialism*
- June 22 – U.S. Department of Justice established, 1870
- June 26 – Roy Punkett birth anniversary (1910); discoverer of Teflon in 1938

Local Officers			
Local Secretary	Mark Mitchell	851-4668	Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org
Newsletter Editor	Beret Ing	(509) 882-2104	Editor@crm.us.mensa.org
Local Areas			
Eastern Cascades	Alix Drake-Williams George Drake	(509) 933-3117	EasternCascades@crm.us.mensa.org
Far North	Frances Rios		FarNorthArea@crm.us.mensa.org
All opinions herein are those of the authors and not those of Columbia River Mensa or of American Mensa Ltd. Mensa as an organization has no opinions.			