

# CRSNORK

Volume 26, Numbers 9/10

The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

September/October 2006

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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Peter Griffin, W Richland; Steven Heninger, Benton City; Peggy Nielsen, Goldendale; Joanna Olson, Ellensburg; Kristin Smith, Richland; Haixing Wang, Richland. See you at brunch/dinner !!!

**THANK YOU "ROADTRIP" PLANNERS:** Muchas Gracias to Jere Osborne, Blake Murray, Alix & George, Robert Nelson, AAA "Journal" and I hope I did not forget anyone. We enjoyed the 2 new restaurants, one winery, driving in forests, wading in VERY cold water (swimming was planned!) and meeting with far afield members. Everyone was too tired for the drive-in. Let us know of other routes we might try....AL

**GET WELL BERET ING:** Send a greeting if you can to Beret, our editor, who is home from the hospital and recovering from a serious bout of lung infection. Bereting at earthlink.net. You would have a better newsletter sooner if she were up and around!

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

**ELLENSBURG - FIRST SATURDAY, September 2nd, no-host brunch, 11:00 a.m. at The Matterhorn, 101 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg 509-925-7200.** Take Exit 109 [Canyon Road] off of I-90, drive North to the first traffic light and turn West (left). The Matterhorn is on the Northwest corner of Canyon and Umptanum.) 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. From the new Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact: [EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org) Regarding share rides: [locsec@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@crm.us.mensa.org). We were 5 for August and the topics were numerous and interesting!

**MONTHLY DINNER MEETING: September 23rd, 6:00 pm, INCA Restaurant, 1825 Leslie Road, Richland (by Albertson's).** Delicious Mexican food, great ambiance. Contact locsec at [crm.us.mensa.org](http://crm.us.mensa.org) or 946-8309.

## **OCTOBER ACTIVITIES:**

**ELLENSBURG - FIRST SATURDAY, October 7th, no-host brunch, 11:00 a.m. at The Matterhorn, 101 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg 509-925-7200.** Take Exit 109 [Canyon Road] off of I-90, drive North to the first traffic light and turn West (left). The Matterhorn is on the Northwest corner of Canyon and Umptanum.) 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. From the new Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact: [EasternCascadesArea at crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org) Regarding share rides: [locsec at crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@crm.us.mensa.org). We were 5 for August and the topics were numerous and interesting!

**MONTHLY DINNER MEETING: October 28th, 6:00 pm, Apollo Restaurant,** 820 Cullum Avenue, Richland. Outstanding Greek cuisine and atmosphere. Contact locsec at [crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:crm.us.mensa.org) or 946-8309.

**DON'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY!!!** Along this line, we are contemplating a garage sale to acquire books. A friend has a friend running dental clinics in Africa ([www.teethsavers.org](http://www.teethsavers.org)). Whenever they have a book that they can give to a child, the children are thrilled with this gift. If you don't have any donatable "stuff", please bring a book (children's, easy reading, "How to", classics, etc.) to an event or call 946-8309.

**MENSA TESTING DAY:** Is planned for October 21<sup>st</sup>. As of now, they are planned in Richland and Yakima, later in Ellensburg. Please tell friends, neighbors, especially women, who are usually the minority. For more information, or if you can help set up and register, please contact testing at [crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:crm.us.mensa.org)

**WHO'S YOUR LOCSEC????:** It was Alma, but she's stepping down. The messy house, desks, etc., has just gotten out of hand. Cutting back Mensa activities was just not getting it done. Headsup: elections are in December! Here is an opportunity to try out your CRM plans! Introduce yourself via [crm-talk@us.mensa.org](mailto:crm-talk@us.mensa.org), brunch, dinner, articles for Nov./Dec. Chinook, or whatyoulike. Meanwhile, (and afterwhile) I encourage all members to join the talk group, donate to the garage sale, attend or sponsor events, in order to keep the group going, and encourage new and continuing officers. This is a very spread out group and a challenge to manage and progress to all member's aspirations.

### **Dr. Ruf (Mensa's Gifted Children Program Coordinator):**

Call for Papers: The MRJ has a new TAG Progeny section for Mensa's young readers ? and writers! So Dr. Ruf is putting out a call for articles from children in her newsletter audience who at one time have been or who are presently

being home schooled. Tell us about the experience, what you liked or didn't like about it, or any thoughts about home schooling in general. The article can be up to 2,500 words. Submit your article to Dr. Ruf by email at [educationoptions@cs.com](mailto:educationoptions@cs.com) by the deadline of Thursday, November 30, 2006. A panel comprised of

Dr. Ruf and a few colleagues will read all papers submitted, and they will choose one to be included in this issue of MRJ. Some articles not chosen may be posted on the Educational Options website and announced in a future newsletter. Questions, expressions of intent to submit an article, and offers from colleagues to volunteer as reviewers are welcome at any time by email, too.

**BATTELLE VIDEO CLUB:** It's that time of year to elect new officers for the Battelle Video Club. If you would like to volunteer your time to help out on the Battelle Video Club please email to Wanda Mar the position you would like to run for:

Openings: President, Treasurer, Secretary, are open to Battelle/PNNL employees only to fill and (3) BVC Board of Officer's positions is open to the public to fill.

The BVC bylaws are on the BVC website: <http://bsa.pnl.gov/video/about.html>

Thanks,

**Wanda Mar** 509-372-4930 ISB1-422

**UPCOMING MENSA EVENTS:** **Colloquium 2006: Revolution in Cosmology**, October 6-8, Albany N.Y., [www.colloquium.us.mensa.org](http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org). **Sacramento RG: The Sky is the Limit**, Oct. 20-22, [www.sacramento.us.mensa.org](http://www.sacramento.us.mensa.org). **San Francisco RG: Brilliance by the Bay**, Nov. 24-26, [www.sfmensa.org](http://www.sfmensa.org).

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM THE "509" AREA CODE WHEN.....**from Al Temple

- >> You've never met a celebrity.
- >> Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor on the highway.
- >> "Vacation" means going to Seattle or Portland, or Spokane.
- >> You measure distance in minutes.
- >> You say "pop" instead of soda or soft drink.
- >> You know several people who have hit a deer or a cow.
- >> Your school classes were rarely cancelled because of cold or snow.
- >> You've ridden the school bus for an hour each way.
- >> You've ever had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" in the same day.
- >> You think ethanol makes your truck "run a lot better".
- >> You know what's knee-high by the Fourth of July (This is a test).
- >> Stores don't have "bags"; they have "sacks".
- >> You end your sentences with an unnecessary preposition. (i.e. "Where's My coat at?" or "If you go to town I wanna go with.")
- > You know how to pronounce Wenatchee, Yakima, and Spokane.
- >> You know Walla Walla, Washington is a REAL town, not just cartoon!
- >> All the festivals are named after a fruit, vegetable, grain, or animal.
- >> You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.

- >> You think of the major four food groups as beef, pork, beer, and Jell-O
- >> salad with marshmallows.
- >> You know what "cow tipping" and snipe hunting" is.
- >> You only own 3 spices: salt, pepper, and ketchup.
- >> You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.
- >> Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
- >> You know how to put on snow chains.
- >> You think everyone from a bigger city has an accent.
- >> The local paper does not cover national and international headlines, but
- >> requires 6 pages for cattle prices and sports.
- >> You think that opening day of deer season is a national holiday.
- >> You know which leaves make good toilet paper.
- >> You find 20 degrees F "a little chilly".
- >> You know all 4 seasons: Almost Winter, Winter, Still Winter, and Construction.
- >> You know the City of Pullman is named after a railroad sleeping car.
- >> You traveled through hours of wheat fields or farms to get to the next city.
- >> You know the names of the Tri-Cities.
- >> Your home town had more cows than people in it.
- >> You actually know how to drive in the snow.
- >> You've driven 120 mph down Wenas Rd.
- >> You know how to pronounce Wenas Rd.
- >> You can walk into a store, any store, and recognize most of the people there.
- >> You were born here, grew up here, graduated from here, went to college
- >> here, and transfered to Central only to wind up.. back here.
- >> There's more than 2 generations of your family living in this
- >> god-forsaken valley.
- >> You know where there's a sign that reads "Yakima- the Palm Springs of
- >> Washington".
- >> You've ever looked at those hills and thought "don't those look like butt
- >> cheeks?"
- >> You've gone four-wheeling up in the hills.
- >> You actually get these jokes and forward them to your "509" friends!
- >> You gotta love it!!!
- >>

**HISTORICAL TRIVIA** , Contribution by Bob Bromm.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

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As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and

October)! Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

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In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the "chair man." Today in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."

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Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . therefore, the expression "losing face."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman . as in "straight laced". . . wore a tightly tied lace.

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Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

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Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times.. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

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At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "minding your "P's and Q's."

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One more: bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons.

Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations.

However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

<b>Local Officers</b>			
Local Secretary	Alma Lewandowski	(509) 946-8309	LocSec at <a href="mailto:crm.us.mensa.org">crm.us.mensa.org</a>
Assistant LocSec	Mark Mitchell	851-4668	AsstLocSec at <a href="mailto:crm.us.mensa.org">crm.us.mensa.org</a>
Treasurer	Les Aldrich	(509) 946-3106	Treasurer at <a href="mailto:crm.us.mensa.org">crm.us.mensa.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Beret Ing	(509) 882-2104	Editor at <a href="mailto:crm.us.mensa.org">crm.us.mensa.org</a>
<b>Local Areas</b>			
Eastern Cascades	Alix Drake-Williams George Drake	(509) 933-3117	EasternCascadesArea at <a href="mailto:crm.us.mensa.org">crm.us.mensa.org</a>
Far North	Frances Rios		FarNorthArea at <a href="mailto:crm.us.mensa.org">crm.us.mensa.org</a>
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