



The
Constellation
Rochester Area Mensa

September, 2011

Short and Sweet

Hello Everybody!

You will notice some changes in our monthly calendar! We will be trying new gatherings (in quiet places!) I would also like to remind everyone that all events are open to anyone. You do not have to belong to Mensa to attend, so if you have a friend who is not a member, please bring them along!

I also should warn you that I have a tendency to get into mischief! My latest adventure was a 45-minute stakeout to track down someone's new address and contact information! Oh, by the way, if you move and your contact information changes, PLEASE let National Mensa and me know. Otherwise, you will not be receiving current mailings.

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout,
RAM Acting LocSec



reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – September, 2011

Mark said it's not official till it's in the paper. This is the paper (real or electronic). It's official. If, like me, you were not able to attend Columbus Area Mensa's Regional gathering at the end of July, we missed a fabulous weekend. Hopefully, we'll all be there next year.

I hope you are reading this at Western Pennsylvania Mensa's RG over Labor Day weekend. I know it's truly a wonderful weekend.

And, don't forget to register for the - Cincinnati Regional Gathering; Just for Your CAMusement! in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 2, 2011 - December 4, 2011

The following was written by Mel Dahl, RVC10. I asked and received permission to use it in this column. My only edit of his writing is the addition in brackets {}.

"Mensa has just completed the most extensive survey it has ever taken of its members to determine member satisfaction and ask people what they want out of Mensa. In February 2010, surveys were mailed to 10,000 members (or about 17% of our 58,000 members). 1,379 people (14% of those surveyed, 2.3% of our total membership) responded. Since the responses were self-selected by those who chose to return the survey it is not truly a random sample. Nevertheless, it is the largest survey taken of our membership to date. The results were published in the June 2011 Report of the Local Group Services & Funding Task Force, chaired by Robin Crawford. This document is available on-line at Mensa's Web site, <http://www.us.mensa.org>

"The survey contained predictable questions: Why did you join Mensa, and what were you hoping to get out of it, and did you get out of it what you were hoping to get out of it. The answers were mostly what one would intuitively have expected even without taking a survey. Previous surveys had given us the wholly unsurprising information that the more actively one participates in Mensa activities, the more likely one is to be happy with one's Mensa membership, and also that the biggest worry for local group leaders is the lack of volunteers. And if that's all the information that this latest survey had given us I'd probably file it away instead of devoting a column to it.

"The thing that makes this survey particularly valuable, in my opinion, is the fact that every one of the 1,379 people who responded were given an open-ended question: What service(s) do you want from your local group that is not listed on this survey? And the recurring answer, over and over again, was: I live too far away from any activities; I wish I could get to local activities but they are an hour, two hours, three hours away from me.

"In other words, we have a significant chunk of members who would like to attend local group events (and we know from earlier surveys that participation in local group events leads to increased satisfaction with Mensa membership) but live far enough away from the centers of their local groups to make it feasible for them to do so. The key to their satisfaction with Mensa membership is to make it easier for them to attend local group events.

"In Florida {I ask you to substitute Region 3}, we have several local groups that are fairly tightly compacted and finding an event nearby should not be a problem. We also have other groups that are more spread out and, in looking at the calendars for those groups, I can see that someone living at one end of the local group area very well might not be able to conveniently attend anything offered by local groups.

"So, I am asking two things. First, if you are a locsec/member of a local excom, please look at your calendar to see if all areas of your local group have events and, if not, please try to find someone willing to organize one.

"Second, if you are a member who would like to attend local events but there is nothing near where you live, please consider organizing something yourself. I'm sure your local newsletter will be happy to give you space, and you can get email addresses for members in your area by going to the membership directory on our national Web site. If you need logistical assistance, talk to your locsec or talk to me. Let's see if we can broaden the areas that have local events."

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark
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734-434-5757 (Home) or 313-530-2055 (Mobile)
Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>
Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>
Facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

New RAM Members – 2011

On behalf of all current RAM members and the general Mensa population worldwide, we wish to extend a warm welcome and sincere congratulations to our newest members. These are the new RAM members so far in 2011:

Ronald D Heisey	West Henrietta, NY	Monroe County
Matthew M Henshaw	Rochester, NY	Monroe County
Leslie W Hughes	Williamsville, NY	Erie County
Michael Milburn	Spencerport, NY	Monroe County
Richard P Moore	Rochester NY	Monroe County
Susan Paprocki	Penfield, NY	Monroe County
Lisa B Rothrock	Caledonia, NY	Livingston County
Declan Ryan	Rochester, NY	Monroe County
Lauren M Schieck	Rochester, NY	Monroe County
Cameron Sen	Farmington, NY	Ontario County
Mark Spall	Rochester, NY	Monroe County
Jamie Welch	Rochester, NY	Monroe County
Peter D Wierzba	Rush, NY	Monroe County

Interesting or Important Event, NOS

AAA PIRP – Saturday, September 3, 2011 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

AAA Penfield
2156 Penfield Road
Penfield, NY 14526

800.836.2582
wcnyc.aaa.com

Save up to 10% on your auto insurance. This is not a RAM event, but it's a smart idea... I'm going, and I'm taking my daughter! For a mere \$35 (\$41 for non-AAA members), you can get three years of reduced auto insurance premiums. The AAA PIRP (Point & Insurance Reduction Program) is offered many times and many locations throughout the year, but if you've never been, you're probably paying too much for insurance. (Also see: wcnyc.aaa.com/car/driver-training/defensive-driving)

RAM Communication & Web Site Upgrades

Even as you are reading this, some fairly significant Web site and group communication updates are underway. Now, we may not be able to accomplish everything all at once, so we'll consider it more evolutionary than revolutionary, but with some major milestones materializing in the very near future.

We are mentioning this now because this is prime time for making suggestions, submitting requests, and generally letting your voice be heard. Even now, however, myriad means exist to contact anyone in the group, but your best bet would be to make plans to attend an upcoming RAM event, just in case we have to sketch out some of your ideas on a paper napkin or something. ☺

– Sam

September RAM Events, Continued

Discussion Night – Topic: 911 Controversy Revisited Wednesday, September 14, 2011 7:00 pm

Edna Tina Wilson Living Center 585.368.6100
700 Island Cottage Road <http://bit.ly/o1yF49>
Rochester, NY 14612

We are expanding our horizons, capitalizing on connections... Edna Tina Wilson Living Center is a skilled nursing facility with several meeting rooms that go unused most evenings – a quiet, inexpensive environment perfect for discussions and the like. This is not a restaurant, so we avoid the nagging feeling that we have to eat something or have to buy something... and we'll have the room to ourselves.

Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed; we are not sure what, if any, will be available so best to plan on bringing your own. Feel free to bring along any books, DVDs, or other materials on the topic. Located on Island Cottage Road north of the police station, opposite Janes Road. No RSVP required; We will have a number of strategically placed yellow balloons to guide you.

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, September 22, 2011 6:00 pm

University of Rochester 585.276.8900
Memorial Art Gallery mag.rochester.edu
500 University Avenue mag.rochester.edu/events/slider-tapas-night
Rochester NY 14607

Max at the Gallery now offers a weekly Tapas Night. This event runs from 5:00pm to 8:00pm; we plan to gather at 6:00pm. We'll have a chance to listen to live music, enjoy wine, beer, and tapas plates for purchase AND, for anyone interested, you can visit the Gallery with half price admission (open until 9 pm). No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Diner Night – Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:00 pm

Pixley's Restaurant 585.247.1690
2235 Buffalo Road <http://bit.ly/r1u8LJ>
Rochester, NY 14624-1509

As some of you have requested, this venue should provide an atmosphere conducive to carrying on the intense, focused conversations in which Mensans regularly engage! ☺ Good food and proportionately good prices, friendly staff, and great service are all expected. Enter parking lot via Tops Plaza entrance on Buffalo Road directly across from Wegman Road. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

NOTE: This is right next door to the new restaurant, Quaker Steak & Lube; There have been mixed reviews on QS&L as they gear up. Feel free to "check 'em out" but we'll save that restaurant for another time.

October RAM Events

First Thirstday – Thursday, October 6, 2011 7:00 pm

The Rohrbach Brewing Company 585.594.9800
 3859 Buffalo Road Rohrbachs.com
 Rochester, NY 14624

A great German themed pub, and a RAM favorite for many consecutive Octobers. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Fall Foliage Viewing Hike – Saturday, October 8, 2011 1:45 pm

(Led / hosted by Genesee Valley Conservancy)
 Wheeler Gully, Geneseo, NY 585.243.2190
 Nations Road (Off Route 39) GeneseeValleyConservancy.org

Fall foliage viewing along Wheeler Gully led by Genesee Valley Conservancy. Walk approximately 3 miles, stream crossings may occur. Meet at bridge on Nations Road in Geneseo, approximately 1 mile from Route 39. Park on the side of the road.

A Hike & Dinner... A FALL TWO-FER IS BETTER THAN A TALL FOOFER:*

Post-Hike Dinner (Hike Optional!) Saturday, October 8, 2011 5:30 pm

Holloway House Restaurant 585.657.7120
 29 State Street (Routes 5 & 20) TheHollowayHouse.com
 East Bloomfield, NY 14443

All you can eat seafood and prime rib buffet at this historic 1808 stagecoach tavern located on Routes 5 & 20 in Bloomfield. Crab legs and homemade breads are just a couple of personal favorites! Great food with a guarantee that you won't walk away hungry; connect with a coupon and your cost will be about \$21, excluding tax, drinks, and tip.

"Foofer: Person with lack of interest. No intelligence what so ever. Talks to himself/herself in 3rd person point of view" (<http://bit.ly/oNYpUe>).

MORE INFO COMING – SAVE THE DATE: RAM / Mensa Testing Day – Saturday, October 15, 2011 12:00 noon

ABVI-Goodwill Store For more information, contact
 Community Room Bob Horner or Eric Murphy
 50 Webster Commons Blvd (See Contact Info on Page 8.)
 Webster, NY 14580

Prior registration is strongly suggested but all are welcome; the Mensa Testing fee is \$40. Testing begins promptly at 12:00 noon.

(October RAM Events continue on Page 7)

October RAM Events, Continued

PLANNING STAGES – SAVE THE DATE:

RAM Halloween Non-Costume Party – Saturday-Sunday, October 29-30

Days Inn Rochester (Thruway)
4853 West Henrietta Road
Henrietta, NY 14467

585.334.9300
DaysInn.com

This is a real “get to know you” event. The only costume required is a *numbered* “Hello, my name is:” badge. (Badges *and* numbers provided!) Any costume beyond that is totally optional but we would ask that your face not be obscured (After all, we want to get to know you!) After an appropriate time for conversation and such, which includes NO REAL NAMES USED, the contest portion of the event will involve your best guess at everyone’s real name... and yes, you can ask things like “Are you the treasurer?” during the initial discussion time. At the end of the contest, the person with the greatest number of correctly guessed names will win a big prize (to be decided and announced).

Venue Review: Marge’s Lakeside Inn

We held our August *First Thirstday* event at Marge’s, on the lake in Irondequoit. I had never been but the group has gathered at Marge’s several times previously. As it turns out, Marge’s is a great place to get a cool drink, take advantage of a cool breeze, and enjoy the view. Indeed, the trip yielded a number of priceless and intriguing photos.

Marge’s serves no food but that creates no problem: Several burger and ice cream establishments line the street opposite Marge’s; Don’s Original is directly across. And apparently, as we found out, bringing in catered meals sometimes is allowed...

Two factors influenced our trip, one in the plus column, and one... not so much. Upon arriving, we learned that a rather large company gathering was being hosted. The result was that the outdoor beach area was bustling and the interior was downright crowded. We were able to secure sufficient tabletop real estate for our purposes, and the service at the bar was pretty snappy given the circumstances, but navigating through the narrow beach house to our sandy roost was a challenge.

The other element, the positive, was that the weather definitely was on our side. We were able to perch on a picnic table, grab a bite to eat, engage in our various conversations, put our toes in the sand, and dwell in the lakefront setting until well after the sun dipped below the horizon. Even with Irondequoit’s finest issuing citations due to some patrons’ limited ability to cope with limited parking accommodations (none of us were ticketed), I still would say the positives outweighed the negatives, making it a worthwhile trip. On a five-star scale, I would give Marge’s three and a half stars, and I rate the opportunity to spend some time with my RAM “family” a solid five.

– *Terry Redfield*

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The thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are not those of Mensa, which has no opinions. These are the submissions of members with the intent of generating thought and discussion on a broad range of topics.