

Mblem

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Penguin Party

Karen Tiede

Who: You!

When: Saturday, June 14, 2008, 6:00 pm
(the SECOND Saturday of June)

Where: - - - -, Moncure - - - -

What: The 8th Annual Black and White Penguin Party!!

Wear black and white in honor of the birds and all things black and white (or gray if you like to mix things up), and come prepared for a good time! We'll have balloon hats for the uninhibited. Bring an instrument if you care to play and a hoop if you have one of your own; I'll have hoops to use for hoop dancing in the driveway. I'll spin the fire hoop after dark (9 pm-ish; hope you can stay till then!).

(This is the SECOND Saturday in June; previous parties have been on the third Saturday of June. We have a schedule conflict this year.)

There will be food. I'll provide a main dish and soft drinks; if you would, please bring

Potluck dinner or dessert food

BYOB

Also, please park in the - - - lot next door.

Children are welcome. The backyard is fenced but the house is not child-proof. This is a dog / cat / no smoking inside house.

Need a head count so I'll know how many couches we'll need to rescue.

RSVP: See direction on the back of calendar page (opposing page).

(Editor's note: private information withheld for this web version)

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Words From Nick

RVC Column

Nick Sanford

National News:

It is time again for Mensa elections. The Nominating Committee has posted the 2008 Candidate Information Forms on the national website. If you would like to run for a position on the AMC then you will need to complete and return this form by August 15. As for myself, I am still debating what position I want to run for if any. Whether or not you decide to run yourself I strongly encourage you to take a little time and vote for those you believe in.

The Annual Gathering will be held in Denver during the July 4th weekend. This year there will be Meet & Greet times for each of the regions. Region 5 will meet in Plaza Court 3 on Thursday, July 3, from noon until 1:15. I am not planning anything fancy, so please don't come expecting an ice sculpture. I'll probably say a few

words, answer a few questions, and then turn it over to socializing. There are quite a number of people who attend AGs whom you will never see at an RG, so you may just make a few new friends.

Local Edition:

Piedmont Area Mensa held their Regional Gathering the first weekend of May. It was titled LAW AND (dis)ORDER. I am proud to say that I was presented an award for "conduct unbecoming an RVC". There was a man carrying around a boat ore and had his pant legs rolled up. He won best costume for his impersonation of Roe vs. Wade. The hospitality crew did an excellent job of not only keeping the masses fed, but of doing so with healthy food. PAM always does an excellent job on their gatherings and I am looking forward to doing it again next year.

Nick Sanford
RVC5@us.mensa.org

Two local students win Mensa college scholarships in national competition (communicated by Jim Crowley- scholarship chair)

I'm pleased to announce that two college students from the MENC area have been awarded Mensa Education & Research Foundation college scholarships.

Rachel Moninger of Fuquay Varina is a rising junior majoring in composition at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA and won the \$500 Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship. Thomas P.H. Warren of Edenton is a graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy and will be entering Duke Divinity School in August. He won the \$300 Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship. Considering that I received essays from just 24 individuals, having two winners is impressive and suggests that we may be able to get more local winners with more involvement. If you know anyone within the MENC area who is attending college or planning to attend college, please direct them to www.mensafoundation.org to apply beginning the first week in September. I would like to thank David Skaar and Sarah Nelson for acting as judges and Ed Williams, a past long-time scholarship chair, for providing valuable guidance.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Scholarship Chair also added the following contribution of :)

A College-related Joke

After the college boy delivered the pizza to Bud's trailer house, Bud asked, "What is the usual tip?"

"Well," replied the youth, "this is my first trip here, but the other guys say if I get a quarter out of you, I'll be doing great."

"Is that so?" snorted Bud. "Well, just to show them how wrong they are, here's five dollars."

"Thanks," replied the youth, "I'll put this in my school fund."

"What are you studying?" asked Bud.

The lad smiled and said, "Applied psychology."

A Visit to My Ancestral Castle

Ed Williams

In the summer of 1856, I was nearing the end of my first Foreign Service job, a two-year assignment at the US Embassy, London. I was eager to visit Scotland, the land of my mother's ancestors. She was a descendant of the MacLeans, though sometime between the War of American Secession (erroneously known as the American Revolution) and the War of Southern Secession, some bureaucrat mis-spelled the name as "McClain" on an official document, and it stuck.

I took a week's leave and headed north. I passed through Hadrian's Wall and made it to Edinburgh, where I paid homage at the tomb of Adam Smith, the father of good, capitalist economics.

I then headed west towards the Isle of Mull, home of the MacLeans. I arrived at the town of Oban on the coast, and got passage on a tugboat headed for Tobermory, the island's largest town, on the northwest tip. It was a 4-hour trip. I checked in at the town's hotel, and asked the proprietor how I could arrange to visit Duart Castle, the home of the MacLean Clan. He said "Why don't you ask Lady MacLean - she's just over there." And indeed she was, preparing for a benefit dinner that night. I approached her and told her I was

a grandson of a MacLean/McClain of the Carolinas. I told her that I remembered my grandma telling me, in about 1936, of being invited to a Gathering of the Clan to celebrate the just-completed restoration of the Castle, after more than 150 years of deterioration (after "The '45"). She was very cordial, and invited me to high tea at the Castle the next afternoon.

The next day, I rented a car and drove south to Duart Castle. It sits on a high bluff overlooking the Sound of Mull, just a few miles across from the town of Oban. When I arrived at the main gate, I was met by a servant who escorted me across the courtyard to the old Keep. I was met at the huge door by Sir Charles and Lady MacLean, who escorted me upstairs to a magnificent lounge where we took tea in great style. I got a tour of the Keep, dating from the early 1200's, the walls of which ranged from 12' thick at the base to 5' thick at the top, behind the battlements. From the parapet, I could see - some miles to the southwest - the ruins of Lochbuie Castle, former home of the other main branch of the MacLeans. Sir Charles told me that when his grandfather began to restore Duart, back in the 1880's, he appealed for - and received - contributions from MacLeans all over the world. Therefore, he felt the Castle belonged to all MacLeans. It was a marvelous, unforgettable afternoon! The next day, I headed back to London and got back to my job of interviewing applicants for all kinds of visas.

High IQ Driving —Shiangtai Tuan After having to drive on a four lane (on way, 8 lanes total) section of I-40 for days, I have come to the realization that driving is an extremely difficult task. Physically, it is not hard to operate a car. Anyone with limbs, even a monkey, for that matter, can do that. However, mentally, it is extremely demanding. It required very high intelligence to learn how to do it. There are, not one, not two, but three very complicated concepts to comprehend and to remember. Number one, the easiest one of the three: "drive within nine miles of the speed limit." Number two: "stay in the rightmost lane whenever possible." About twenty percent of drivers can do that. You can verify by counting cars in various lanes in either a busy day or a in light traffic. Number three: "pass on left whenever possible." 2% can do that.

(Editor's note: this is part of an e-mail message from a Mr. Alan Stillson. (address withheld for this web version, editor) **MENSA-THEMED SUDOKUGRAMS PUZZLE COLUMN** Alan Stillson, long-time puzzle editor for Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa and author/co-author of seven official American Mensa puzzle books, invites you to use specially-crafted Mensa-themed *Sudokugrams* in your puzzle column. *Sudokugrams* is an American Mensa puzzle book by Alan Stillson and Frank Longo (Sterling Publishing, 2007). It's the first sudoku variation book to combine Logic (**Sudoku**) with Language (**anagrams**). *Sudokugrams* was reviewed in the March, 2008 Bulletin and will be presented in a program at the 2008 AG. There's no contract or obligation and no money changes hands. Everybody benefits. Your readers get a challenging, enjoyable puzzle column. You get camera-ready contents. My publisher, co-author and I get recognition and publicity. MERF gets a portion of the proceeds from all sales of *Sudokugrams*.

SUDOKUGRAMS by Alan Stillson and Frank Longo
Logic and Language Linked! A sudoku variation that truly com-

bines logic and wordplay.

The rules of Sudokugrams (see <http://sudokugrams.com> for more details and sample puzzles) in a nutshell:

1. Fill in the empty squares with the letters in the Letter Pool, using each letter only once.
2. Make sure there are no repeating letters in any of the rows, columns, or heavily outlined 2 x 2 boxes.
3. Form twelve different sets of four letters in the rows, columns, and 2 x 2 boxes so that each set can be anagrammed (unscrambled) into a common, clean, non-capitalized word.

Please feel free to click onto <http://sudokugrams.com> or <http://stillsonworks.com> for more information. A set of twelve Sudokugrams puzzles is available upon request. The theme words and phrases are GENIUS, THINKER, SHARP WIT, DEDUCTION, TOP TWO, BRILLIG, INSIGHTS, MENTALITY, URBANE, ANALYZE, SOLUTION and REASONING. Please note that the sudodugrams.com website referenced in the instructions is an informational, non-sales site. I look forward to your feedback.

Analogy

Shiangtai Tuan

A friend of mine would not use microwave oven. He said: "Microwave is not traditional; it is new-wave; it hurts tissues; it is radiation; it is something radioactive; some ignorant people stand in front of short wave antenna to get warm but they may hurt themselves. Have you seen the over-microwaved food? It is destroyed. So, Microwave is evil."

It so happened that many tens of thousand years ago a man used to say, commenting on cooking with fire:

"Fire is not traditional; it is new wave; it hurts when it is burnt; it is radiates to a distance — horror; some ignorant people stand in front of fire to get warm but they may get burnt. Have you seen burnt food? It is horrible. So, fire is evil."

Treasurer's Sporadic Report
by Dan Singer

Hello. As mentioned in our previous episode of Mblem, we've had to shift our fiscal year to coincide with American Mensa's. So, instead of a Sept. 1 - Aug. 31 fiscal year, ours is now Apr. 1 - Mar. 31 -- a shift of five months or seven months, depending upon how you prefer to look at it. ...

(Content not for public viewing, Editor)

Mountain High-IQ: Annual Gathering 2008

A G News

(Editor's Note: This is an e-mail message I received.)

Fellow Mensan,

Have you considered supporting the economy by socializing -- and learning -- with your fellow Mensans? If you have, we hope you'll register now for Rocky Mountain High-IQ: Annual Gathering 2008, July 2-6 in Denver. Here's a brief snapshot of just some of the fun planned so far:

-- More than 240 programmed seminars, workshops and events in tracks called The M-ind, Science & Medicine, Metaphysical/Supernatural, Literature & History, Entertainment, Technology, All Colorado, Fitness, Games and Etcetera. And the AG is just around the corner; who knows what else will be added?

-- Got kids? American Mensa Kids Trek, a memorable educational experience for children ages 4-12, will be "Trekking to the Colorado Mountains" July 3, 4 and 5. For tween and teenage Young Mensans, there will be a tween room and TeenSIG is planning another slate of get-togethers.

-- Denver has one of the nicest summer climates in the country; get out and enjoy it! The AG Committee has contracted with a local tour company, Colorado Event Organizers, to offer eight tours of various lengths from Monday, June 30, to Sunday, July 6. All tours are "can't miss" and will feature professional tour guides, transportation arrangements and refreshment.

-- A lovely, "sit-down" meal offers a great environment for making new Mensan friends and catching up with those you haven't seen in a while. Don't forget to sign up for the meal plan!

Much more information is available at www.ag.us.mensa.org; check it out and register online! Registration rates go up after May 31!

*Kim and Tony Jackowski
2008 AG Co-Chairmen
AGChair@ag.us.mensa.org*