

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Jim Mizera at 203-522-1959 or Jmizera@hotmail.com. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.



ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://scm66.org> (Note: this is a new URL). You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you have an annual Mensa membership and did not renew, your membership expired at the end of April. You can visit www.us.mensa.org to renew.

TEEN MENSANS – Interested in forming a Teen Mensa group in CT Mensa? If you'd like to get together and meet with other young Mensans to discuss interests and plan activities, this is your chance. Contact Quinn Gruver at ConnecticutLady@aol.com.

ATTENTION SOUTHERN CT MENSANS: *The Southern CT Mensa Executive Committee needs a member to assume the open position of Secretary. We also need Proctors, who administer admissions tests to local candidates for Mensa. This is your chance to put ideas that can help our local chapter into action. Please notify one of the current board members to volunteer for these positions.*

HIKING IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY (Non-Mensa event)

A few members have mentioned an interest in hiking locally recently. One group that sponsors regular local hikes of varying lengths and includes a number of Mensans as members is the Central Fairfield County Hikers (<http://hiking.meetup.com/392/>). This group uses meetup.com (a great site, in case you're not familiar with it) to coordinate its hikes. There is a detailed description of each hike. To participate in a hike, please sign up through meetup.com. If you have any questions about the hiking group, please feel free to contact Deb Jennings locsec@rocketmail.com, (President, Southern CT Mensa). In addition, if you are interested in organising a hike or trying to get in contact with other Mensa hikers, we can include information in this monthly letter and help you with organizing and publicizing your events.

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - JUNE

Sunday, June 6, 3:00

REDDING/MARK TWAIN LIBRARY TALK

So. CT Mensan Bob Liftig, adjunct professor at Fairfield University, will give a talk "Is Shakespeare Dead?" using Twain's short book as a starting point. Please stop by the Library to register or call 938-2545.

The Mark Twain Library is at the corner of Route 53 and Diamond Hill Road in Redding. At this location, Route 53 is known as "Redding Road". You can search for it using 439 Redding Road as the library's street address.

Friday, June 11, 7:00

Danbury Dinner - Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner at a new venue, The Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT 06804 (restaurant phone:

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW

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(203) 775-0426). Interested M's should contact Ward Mazzucco at 203-744-1929, ext 25, wjm@danburylaw.com or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, fr.bill@comcast.net for more info on location and/or reservations.



Sunday, June 13, 3:00 pm to ?

BILLARDS

At U.S.1 Billiards, West Haven CT (just past the Orange/West Haven border, past Best Buy and Target, on Route 1 - easy access off of Exits 41 or 42 of I-95. U.S.1 has a deal where you can play from 3pm to 8pm for a flat \$10 rate. Like On Cue, all the tables are 9 ft Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Contact Tom O'Neill at doctec2@gmail.com for further info.

Saturday, June 19, 6:15 pm

MONTHLY DINNER

Putnam House Restaurant

The Seelye Room, 12 Depot Place, Bethel (downtown – across from old railroad station), CT 06801 (www.theputnamhouse.com - Dinner Menu 1). TOPIC: Beth Lambert will talk about her upcoming book "A Compromised Generation: The Epidemic of Chronic Illness in America's Children" (<http://www.sentientpublications.com/catalog/compromised.php>). Her book examines the rise in autism, ADHD, allergies, asthma, diabetes, and other childhood illnesses and disorders and the environmental factors that are believed to be at the root of these epidemics. Beth is a former healthcare consultant and teacher and the founder and Executive Director of the non-profit organization Parents Ending America's Childhood Epidemic (PEACE, www.epidemicanswers.org), dedicated to educating the public about the problem and helping parents find solutions for their children. Dress is casual. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. We will be ordering from Dinner Menu 1

(check www.theputnamhouse.com). There is parking in the rear of the restaurant and in the nearby Old Railroad Station lot. You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. In case of severe weather, please call. Reservations encouraged.

LOOKING AHEAD

October 2, 2010, 11:00 - 5:00

A Day At The Races

Lime Rock Park Racetrack, Lime Rock CT.
Hosts: Mike Yost (GNYM), Tom Thomas (C&WM)
The Bruce Grohe Memorial SIG invites you to the beautiful Lime Rock Park race track to enjoy a day of SCCA Sports Car racing. Join That Nice Tom Thomas and the occasionally polite Mike Yost, sit on a grass hillside watching a variety of sports cars negotiate Lime Rocks twisty, challenging circuit. Feast on whatever you bring (and what you might care to buy from the surprisingly good concession stands) and enjoy autumn in New England. Dress in layers, expect anything from sunny and warm to cool and damp; the races run rain or shine.

Meet us on the Infield Spectator Area overlooking the Esses. Look for yellow balloons. BYO lawn chairs or blankets, picnic food and drink. No pets and No Glass Bottles. Admission is reasonable, 15 dollars at the gate, 10 dollars advance purchase from the track's website.

Lime Rock is located in northwestern Connecticut, and getting there on the scenic roads of the area is part of the fun. For more information, including directions and how to order tickets visit their website: <http://www.lime-rock.com/> or you can call them at 1-800-RACE-LRP. For details about this event, or to RSVP, email mike@mikeyost.com, or call his mobile 917-603-0410

CONTESTS

Attention! Aspiring Mensa member AUTHORS!

Would you like to see your unpublished manuscript in print? BOOK LOVERS and CREATIVE WRITINGS SIG will like to invite you to submit your unpublished manuscript for Sharp Writ Unpublished Manuscript AWARDS.

The entries will be judged by a Panel of fellow Mensa members from the Book Lovers SIG. The winning entry will be awarded a publishing package by Xlibris including listing on Amazon.com for a year. Nominations are open to most categories in Fiction (except Romance and Western), Autobiography and memoirs, Young Adults and Books for Children.

For more information and to submit your manuscript for consideration, visit Book Lovers SIG's website at www.facebook.com/book.awards. You do NOT need to be a member and/or logged into Facebook in order to view this page.

Eye Cue SIG is organizing the *Eye Opener Photography and Art Exhibition* in conjunction with Smart Photographers at the Annual Gathering in Detroit.

There is no entry fee, and entries can be submitted in person, by snail mail or email. The submitter needs to give the SIG permission to offer their work to exhibition attendees in a silent auction, with net proceeds going to Mensa Educational and Research Foundation.

For complete rules and details on how to submit your entry, visit Eye Cue SIG's website at <http://eye-cue-sig.us.mensa.org>.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

MENSA 2010 ANNUAL GATHERING.
June 30 – July 5, Dearborn, Michigan

50th Anniversary of Mensa in North America. Visit <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org> for more information.

As 2009 draws to a close, so does the best registration rate of \$80 for the 2010 Annual Gathering. More than 1,000 Mensans have already registered to attend. Running from Wednesday, June 30, to Monday, July 5, AG10 is taking advantage of the holiday and scheduling a full extra day of fun! Along with Young Mensan programming and leadership development, the AG's program tracks will include:

- Mensa Gold: The celebration of Mensa in North America's 50th continues!
- Diverse Detroit: Explore Detroit as a microcosm of diversity and race relations.
- History in Motion: A Mensan view of the auto industry and its impact on the past century.
- Lions and Tigers and... All Things Sports! This track is for anyone who believes in making it against the odds.
- Motown Motion: How the Detroit Sound and its players influenced generations through music.
- Politics and Borders: From influential labor leaders to international relations, see what makes Detroit politics so intriguing.
- Cadillac's Ponchartrain: Motor through miscellaneous topics in style!

Still to come: day tours, the AG three-meal plan including the anniversary gala, and more! Don't miss it! Visit <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org> for more information. We hope to see you there!
Maria Sawczuk, AG 2010 Chair

Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa MENSAAUTUMN 2010

Sponsored by Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa

October 15-17, 2010
Super 8 Hotel and Conference Center
Manchester, CT

Register early and spend less \$75 until September 15, 2010 - \$90 thereafter Children under 12 - half price Day rates available - contact registrar Registration Includes Friday - supper, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Pub Saturday - lunch, speakers, dinner, surprise guest, Ron's Riverboat Bar Saturday and Sunday - continental breakfast All weekend - hospitality, games, tournaments, an interesting group of speakers and more surprises

Hotel
Super 8 Hotel/Conference Center
20 Taylor St., Manchester, CT 06040
Call (860) 643-1864 for reservations.
Mention Mensa and the rate is only \$70 a night

*FROM THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN**LORI NORRIS**RVCHAT*

May seems to have just flown by. We attended so many wonderful Mensa events and spent time with great friends, new and old. Boston's Cape Cod Mini-RG was a great weekend. My husband and I volunteered to cook breakfast Saturday and Sunday and enjoyed immensely. Volunteering is always a great way to meet and talk to people, and if you are an introvert, it gives you something to keep you busy while you are making friends. Most events have some opportunities to help out. If you are planning to attend the Annual Gathering ("AG") in Detroit/Dearborn this summer, you may want to volunteer. Volunteer on the AG webpage or contact the volunteer coordinator at: volunteers@ag.us.mensa.org. Speaking of the RG, it is still not too late to register. Recently, tour listing and meal plan information has been added to the webpage.

At last year's AG in Pittsburgh, about 30 members of Region 1 went out to dinner the first day. This year, the AG begins at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday (June 30th), so I am proposing that we start early and have a Region 1 lunch. Let's meet at 12:30 in the lobby of the Hyatt. (If you don't know me, I'll be the silly one carrying yellow balloons.) We'll then head over to the Fairlane Town Center for lunch - I suggest China Town, a buffet of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Thai foods (price around \$8.99). And then, let the party begin. RSVP to me at rvc1@us.mensa.org or via the

event notice on the Mensa Region 1 facebook group. [Not a member of the facebook group? now might be the time to join.]

Do you have any friends or family members who would like to join Mensa? During the month of June, there is a discount of \$10 on the Mensa test. Contact your local testing/proctor coordinator to find out about test sessions.

During June, the Mensa Foundation will provide local groups with the names of scholarship winners. Your group may want to take advantage of this opportunity to garner some media coverage. If your group did not participate in the scholarship program, now may be the time to begin talking about participating next year. If you need any information, please feel free to contact me.

Are you a game player? Looking for a new game? You may want to try out some of the Mind Games® 2010 winners: Anomia; Dizios; Forbidden Island; Word on the Street (I played this one at the Cape Cod RG and am now looking to purchase it); Yikerz!

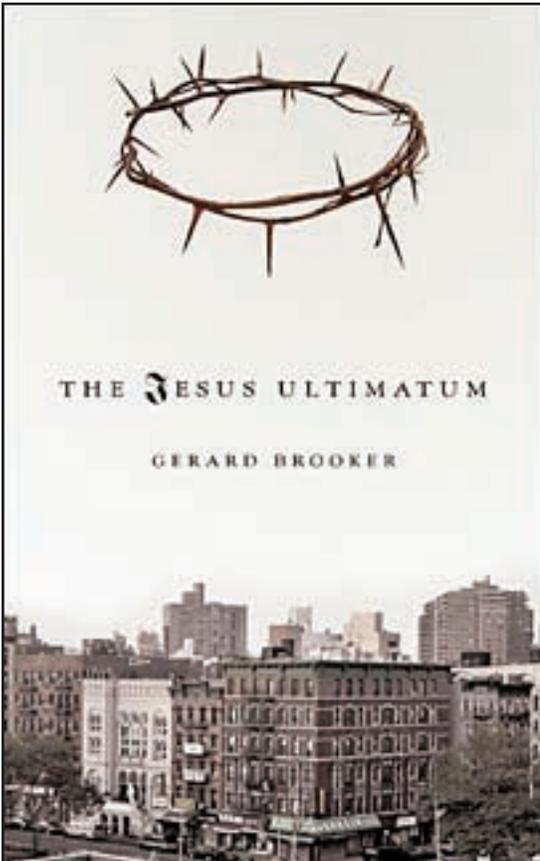
See you at the AG.

- Lori

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BOOK REVIEW

by Rick D'Amico

***THE JESUS ULTIMATUM****by Gerard Brooker*

Imagine that you're a mail carrier in Queens, NY, and out of nowhere you're contacted by someone claiming to be Jesus Christ who wants to visit you. He meets you and proves conclusively that He is Jesus. He asks you to deliver messages to five families and then follow up with a visit to them. This is the situation in which Francis, the lead character in this novel finds himself.

Just like Francis, the members of the five families that he contacts are regular, typical people, not particularly bad or particularly good. Like most people, they have their failings, i.e., conduct during a war, substance abuse, or marital fidelity, etc.

The book draws on a couple of well-known Biblical tales and their themes. One of them is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, as we learn that God is not pleased with mankind and is contemplating destroying it. Another is Abraham and Isaac, because Francis and the five families that he contacts face a test of faith that could have severe personal consequences for one of the families.

Knowing the author personally, I couldn't help but notice that there are also parts of the story that seem drawn from Jerry's life. For example, Jerry spent part of his life as a monk, as did one of the characters in the story. He also visited Iwo Jima, which figures in the plot here. Jerry also wrote a poem about an event that he was particularly moved by, the death of a child killed at a hockey game by an errant puck, and this parallels an incident in the novel.

While this book is fiction, it's not difficult to imagine something like this happening, allowing that the reader will envision the god of his own faith. It is extremely well written, and mixes clear and more subtle concepts, interesting subplots, and enough changes in direction to keep the story from being predictable. In *The Jesus Ultimatum*, Gerard Brooker delivers in spades. It's a "must-read."

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THE MAY DINNER

Flying Remote-Controlled Model Planes

You've probably seen remote-controlled miniature planes flying around in parks or along the shore. What does it take to fly these RC planes? We found out quite a bit about that at the May dinner as author and editor Jon Chappell told us the many things he's learned about aeronautics, electronics, and modern technology since he broke into this hobby 18 years ago. He gave us insights into aerodynamics and excellent footage of the planes in action, along with background on the rules and customs in this field. Local Mensans are sure to take a closer look at these planes the next time they see them flying the wild blue yonder.

Jon came well equipped for his presentation, as he brought one of his planes, a surprisingly large 56-inch wingspan model, and also his 23-inch computer monitor to show videos. He opened with a film of the RC planes soaring, doing knife-edge maneuvers, flying upside down, tumbling, diving, and making a great landing in an impressive display of aerial acrobatics.

DARING AND DANGER

Such exploits suggest, as Jon put it, "model planes are a hobby but they are not toys. They require experience and skill to fly." Moreover, they are not just for recreation; they also have some very serious uses. The "drones", or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's), we hear about in military reporting are large RC planes. RCP's are used to test the aerodynamics of planes in ways that it would be dangerous for pilots to do. "You can do things in an unmanned copter that you can't do with a manned copter because the pilots might get knocked out," Jon pointed out.

To fly safely requires heads up thinking. One of the first things Jon learned is that the line of sight is the main limiting factor in flying RC planes. "You can only see them well for about 400 feet," he estimated. Newcomers might be tempted to fly further because the range of the radios flyers use to control their planes far exceeds the line of sight, but Jon warned against this, as pilots are responsible for any

damage their planes do.

Our speaker came face to face with the serious safety questions of his hobby when he was Editor of Model Airplane News in 2003. Retired John Hopkins U. engineer Maynard Hill and his team had just guided an 11-lb. remote controlled plane from the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, over the northern Atlantic Ocean to the coast of Ireland. The plane went nearly 1900 miles in about 39 hours - all on one gallon of fuel. This was definitely out of Hill's line of sight! Model Airplane News wrote an article about the flight, explaining how its engineer used global positioning satellites normally used to follow wildlife to track the plane and send it course corrections. The FBI apparently read the article and was very interested in Hill's aeromodel and its possible danger to commercial and military aircraft. They came knocking on Jon's door, intent on finding out everything he knew about the flight. Although Jon tried to tell the FBI officers that they would be better off talking to the senior technical members of the magazine' staff, the officers insisted on speaking to Jon and he had to undergo a grilling by the G-men, a conversation Jon grimaced in recalling.

THE ACCIDENTAL HOBBYIST

Jon never dreamed that he would be interrogated by the FBI about RC planes. For that matter, he never thought he would become a RC flyer, much less the editor of a magazine devoted to the field. "I backed into the hobby," he said. He started out professionally as a musician and a writer on music, authoring several books about playing guitars in the For Dummies series. Then one day, a recruiter called him offering an interview for a position as editor of a model airplane magazine in Ridgefield. Jon didn't know anything at all about remote-controlled planes, but the recruiter landed him the interview and Jon won the job. Although he was a novice, he sat down and worked closely with the staff and soon not only picked up their lingo but also their love for the hobby.

AERODYNAMICS

One of the first things Jon found out when he took up model plane flying was that you have to

learn about aerodynamics before you can become an accomplished flyer. Using his model plane, he outlined for us the forces involving in any type of flying. "It's thrust versus drag and lift versus gravity," he explained. The engine or propeller of the plane provides the forward thrust of the plane. For the plane to advance, the thrust must exceed the friction or resistance of the air acting in the opposite direction. Similarly, the lift caused by the air acting on the wings must be greater than the force of gravity for the plane to rise.

A flying plane can go up and down, right and left, or rotate clockwise or counterclockwise. To manage these movements, a RC model flyer must control certain movable parts (control surfaces) on the plane using his radio transmitter and its joystick. The three most important control surfaces are the ailerons, the elevator, and the rudder.

Using his model plane, Jon showed us how the control surfaces must move to do certain maneuvers. For instance, to roll or rotate the plane right or left, the ground pilot must manipulate the ailerons, which are moveable sections on the back edge of the wings. If he wants to roll right, he moves his control stick right to move the right aileron up. The left one will automatically move down when he does this. This will slightly increase the lift on the left aileron and slightly decrease the lift on the right aileron, causing the plane to roll right. To roll left, he would move the left aileron up instead. When the navigator wants to turn the plane right or left, he moves the nose of the plane accordingly - he "yaws" the plane. To do this, he must control the rudder, a surface on the back edge of the plane's tail fin (its vertical stabilizer). As Jon explained, moving the rudder left forces the air going over the fin to push harder on the left side of the rudder, which pivots the nose of the plane to yaw left. Again, moving the rudder right will have the opposite effect.

Jon next talked about the elevator, which has a right and left section on the horizontal stabilizer of the airplane's tail. These move in tandem up or down to control the pitch - the upward and downward tilt of the plane's nose and tail. Moving the elevator up pitches the nose up to

climb and moving it down pitches it down to dive.

There are several other control surfaces that might not be on the simplest model planes. Jon discussed some of these such as the flaps. They are hinged section on the rear of each wing but reside closer to the body of the plane than the ailerons do. You should use flaps only when taking off or landing. They move down but are also retractable, moving in or out. When you extend them, you increase the area of the wing, which allows you to get the same lift at a slower speed. This lets you takeoff and land more slowly. But flaps also increase the drag.

An RC flyer should take all these things into consideration when choosing a plane. If he wants a stunt or fighter plane, he should look for planes built for maneuverability rather than stability. Regardless of what type of flying he does, though, he has to know his stuff.

Nowadays, hobbyists have a shorter learning curve than they used to because they can practice with flight simulators on a computer. It's almost like going to aviation ground school. But the repertoire of skills required to fly RC planes challenges even airline pilots, as was brought out in our discussion. Someone asked John if he would like to fly a real plane. "No," he said, "I don't have any desire to fly a plane." He mentioned that several airline pilots in model plane clubs say that they find flying the models more challenging than flying real planes. A Mensan in the audience who is also a model plane flyer and student pilot echoed those sentiments, saying, "This is more interesting than flying a real plane."

FUEL PLANES VS. ELECTRIC PLANES

Jon started off flying planes with fuel-combustion engines, the traditional technology. Nowadays, RC hobbyists have a choice and there is a big controversy in the field as the new battery-powered planes vie with the gas planes. Jon compared the two: "Gas is a dirty fuel. It has a messy fuel exhaust while electric planes have none. It's loud whereas a battery plane is silent. It's inefficient and the electric is efficient. Furthermore, the internal combustion engine planes vibrate a lot and this damages the frame

of the plane." He added, "If you stop an electric plane, it stops right away but that's not so for gas-powered planes." So why doesn't everyone fly an electric plane? Jon explained by drawing a parallel with the competition in the auto industry between electric and gas cars. In flying, as in the auto industry, electric-powered vehicles unfortunately require a big motor and battery. So far, no one has made batteries that have the energy density of gasoline engines. While electricity isn't a competitive fuel yet, Jon definitely believes this will change because battery technology is improving faster than engine technology. He has begun flying some electric planes, and many newcomers to the hobby fly them exclusively. But he says that more than half of the hobbyists in his club still fly the internal combustion planes. Although he admitted to a "sentimental attachment to the smell and noise of oil-burning planes, he looks forward to the new technology, saying, "It's neat to study electronics because it makes you smart."

BUILDING THE PLANES

While Jon and most other RC hobbyists don't build their own planes, some hobbyists do. "Some of the people in our club are just builders and many are just flyers," he said. But regardless of whether you build or buy your plane, he told us, "Planes are still pretty much made the same way as they were in the 1920's - using balsam wood to keep the planes very light. Jon showed us the inside of his plane and it was virtually nothing, just a hollowed-out frame. The planes are made to come into contact only with air." If they collide with anything, they are wrecked.

In the old days, RC enthusiasts usually built their own planes and agonized over losing them in crashes. Nowadays, it's different - "You can buy planes ready to fly - you just assemble them and apply details," Jon said. This is something novices can learn - Jon did. When he started in the hobby, he considered himself poor in building things, but he takes satisfaction in the way he has learned to use tools and adhesives.

Most model planes are made in China but the quality is high. The octogenarians in RC circles report that the planes are better and less expensive than ever before. "A plane is the cheapest

and most disposable thing," Jon remarked. "It's the hardware (the battery or engine) that's more expensive." Flyers don't panic over losing the frame of the plane but they make every effort to salvage the hardware. A collision between planes wrecks two planes and risks losing the vital mechanical or electronic parts. To avoid this, Jon told us, "RC flyers coordinate their flights carefully when the club is flying together. We can have 10 people in the air at the same time and not have a collision." Even the best pilots crash planes sometimes, though. "I'm not a perfect pilot. I sometimes have rough landings," Jon admitted. He noted that there are some errors that are difficult for anyone to recover from. If you lose your lift, for example, it's tough to regain altitude unless you have enough air under your plane to allow you time to adjust the control surfaces. '

FLYING CLUBS

There are many clubs for RC plane buffs. Jon's club, the Country Squires, has about 100 members, somewhat larger than the national average of 70 for RC clubs. The Squires have their own 230-by-230 foot runway and fly zone at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, CT, where they meet every month. There are also several trade mags for hobbyists and RC aficionados love to discuss their hobby on the web. If you want to see RC planes doing their aerobatics, Jon recommended www.rcuniverse.com as the best website.

There are different divisions for RC model planes - micro-flight for the smallest planes, middle-sized for the 4 - 6 foot planes like the one Jon brought in, and a larger class for planes that approach the dimensions of real aircraft. There is also a special class for flyers who fly their planes indoors in giant hangars.

Unless you have a very small model, you shouldn't fly your plane in your backyard or schoolyards, Jon cautioned us. Because of the fuel, noise, and size of the medium and larger planes, you should fly them only on sanctioned fields, like the one at Sherwood Island.

There are big air shows every year for all the classes of model planes. The annual Rhinebeck, NY show features real-size vintage aircraft along

with the smaller models. Visitors can see full-size Conair planes, F22 replicas, and even replicas of the tri-planes flown by Baron von Richthofen. The replica model builders go to great lengths to recreate planes, sometimes going as far as putting \$2000 engines in. Jon showed us a photo of a very realistic model of Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis plane that made the famous first flight across the Atlantic in 1927. He pointed out one amazing fact about the plane - it had no front window. Lindbergh had to look out side to see where he was going.

One of Jon's closing shots showed a model plane flying over the rainbow, and this seemed to capture the splendor RC flyers find in their hobby. The skies are open to newcomers. It's a hobby almost anyone can enjoy, and Jon invited people who want to learn more about RC flying to come down to Sherwood Island to watch the flyers seriously at play and chat with them about their magnificent obsession.

NOTE: Jon Chappell is the author of several books on music including Learning Guitar for Dummies, Guitar Exercises for Dummies, The Blues Guitar For Dummies, Classical Guitar For Dummies, Rock Guitar for Dummies, Piano for Dummies, The Recording Guitarist: A Guide for Home and Studio, Build Your Own PC Recording Studio, and Digital Home Recording. You can check out these books at www.amazon.com.

NEXT MONTH: Beth Lambert will talk about her upcoming book "A Compromised Generation: The Epidemic of Chronic Illness in America's Children" (<http://www.sentientpublications.com/catalog/compromised.php>). Her book examines the rise in autism, ADHD, allergies, asthma, diabetes, and other childhood illnesses and disorders and the environmental factors that are believed to be at the root of these epidemics.

MENSA MIND GAMES 2010 RESULTS

More than 200 Mensans gathered in San Diego this weekend for Mind Games 2010. During the three-day event, members played and rated 49 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

This year's winners are:

Anomia

(Anomia Press, www.anomiapress.com)

Dizios

(MindWare, www.mindware.com)

Forbidden Island

(Gamewright, www.gamewright.com)

Word on the Street

(Out of the Box Publishing, www.otb-games.com)

Yikerz!

(Wiggles 3D Incorporated, www.yikerzgame.com)

Mind Games 2011 will be held April 15-17 in Albany, NY. Register for just \$55 through April 30, 2010 at www.mindgames.us.mensa.org

Change of Address

Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSA Bulletin.) Member Number:

Name:

Old Address:

New Address:

Telephone Number:

Please send form to:

American Mensa, Ltd.
 Membership Dept
 1229 Corporate Dr West
 Arlington, TX 76006-6103

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA TREASURY

Fiscal Year:

April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010

Opening balance at 4/1/09 \$9013.70

INCOME

American Mensa Local Group Support
 Funds: \$2572.96

EXPENSES

Chronicle Printing Expenses: \$845.88
 Chronicle Postage: \$604.90
 Speakers' Dinners: \$405.17
 Domain name fee (2 yrs) \$200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2055.95

4TH Q BALANCE on 3/31/10: \$9530.71

GOOD WINE CHEAP (AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT)**BY JOHN GROVER**

The Boss and I recently returned from two weeks in Spain. It is a beautiful country with a very welcoming people. It has great art, extraordinary architecture, a turbulent history and mile upon mile of olive and citrus groves. But, most importantly of course, Spain has wonderful food and wine with delightful variations from region to region.

The wines this month are whites from the Rueda region, which is located Northwest of Madrid. The white wines are made from 50% to 100% Verdejo grape with blending allowed using the juice from the Sauvignon Blanc or Macabeo (also known as Viura) grape varieties. The first wine is the 2007 "Las Brisas" from Bodegas Naia. This wine has a fruity citrus freshness like that first glass of lemonade on a hot summer day. The tastes of grapefruit and orange dominate this lovely wine. It sells for between \$11 and \$13 a bottle. The second wine is the 2008 "Con Class" from Sitios De Bodega. While fresh and tangy like the first wine, it is also more complex. It starts with floral notes and combines melon and lemon flavors with the steely mineral taste of great food wines. This wine is a real deal for \$9 to \$11 a bottle.

SPANISH ASPARAGUS AND ORANGE SALAD

(from Mediterranean: A Taste of the Sun by Jacqueline Clark & Joanna Farrow, Hermes House publishing, and available new & used on Amazon.)

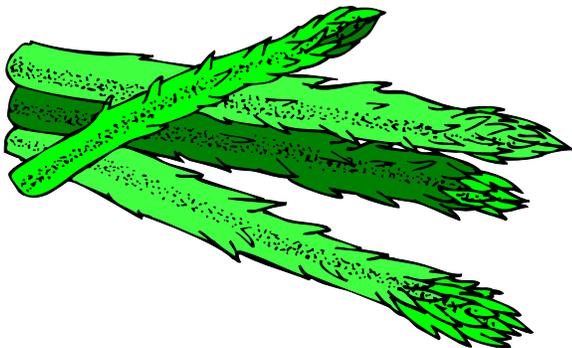
Ingredients:

8 oz. asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2 inch pieces
 2 large oranges
 2 ripe tomatoes cut into eighths
 2 oz. romaine lettuce shredded
 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
 1/2-tsp sherry vinegar
 salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Cook the asparagus in boiling salted water for 3 - 4 minutes, until just tender, Drain and refresh in cold water.

Grate the zest from half an orange and reserve. Peel all the oranges and cut into segments. Squeeze out the juice from the membrane and reserve the juice.

Put the asparagus, orange segments, tomatoes, and lettuce into a salad bowl. Combine the oil and vinegar and add 1 tablespoon of the reserved orange juice and 1 teaspoon of zest. Just before serving, pour the dressing over the salad and mix gently to coat. Serves four.



PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

(Answers may be in next month's Chronicle.)

1. Name as many defunct automobile manufacturers as you can.
2. How many bones are in the human body?
3. How has architecture changed in the last 50 years?
4. How many power plants are there in Connecticut
5. What was Shakespeare's greatest play?
6. How many U.S. soldiers fought in the Vietnam War?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Estimate the population of these Eastern European countries: Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Serbia, Czech, Slovakia.

A: The nation of Yugoslavia no longer exists. It existed in three forms in the 20th century. In 1918, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was established in 1918, uniting the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs and the Kingdom of Serbia, which had annexed Montenegro in 1918. This kingdom lasted until the Axis powers overturned it in 1943. The communist state the Federal People's republic of Yugoslavia was founded in 1946, and was the largest Yugoslav state ever. It consisted of the republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia, and the autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina . The population of this second Yugoslavia exceeded 20 million.

The last Yugoslavian nation was the Federated Republic of Yugoslavia, founded in 1992 after the Yugoslav wars. It was a federation of Montenegro and Serbia, and included Kosovo and Vojvodina .In June, 2006, it dissolved when Montenegro and Serbia declared independence. Kosovo did likewise in 2008, but its status is disputed.

The estimated populations of the other nations are: Bosnia and Herzegovina 4,672,165; Serbia and Montenegro 10,752,915; Czech Republic 10,209,643; and Slovakia 5,379,455

4. How many hospitals are there in Connecticut

A: There are 31 acute care hospitals in Connecticut's 169 towns. 25 of the hospitals are urban and 6 are rural. The largest hospital has 900 beds and the smallest one has 84 beds.

There are 5015 hospitals in the United States. 56% of them are urban and 44% are rural.

6. What was biggest margin of loss ever in a major league baseball game?

A: The largest margin of victory in a major league game in the modern era is 27 runs. On Aug. 27, 2007, the Texas Rangers beat the Baltimore Orioles 30-3, collecting 29 hits in the game. If one includes pre-20 the century games, then the biggest margin was on June 29, 1997, when the Chicago Cubs beat the Louisville Colonels by 36 - 7.

WORD CHECK

Define these "A" words. Check your answers below.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. abstruse - | 1. abstruse - difficult to comprehend; recondite; esoteric. |
| 2. acrophobia - | 2. acrophobia - the fear of high places. |
| 3. acrostic - | 3. acrostic - a series of lines or verses in which the first, last, or other particular letters taken in order spell out a word or phrase. |
| 4. adjuvant (AJ- uh- vuhnt)- | 4. adjuvant - serving to help or assist; auxiliary. |
| 5. adobe (uh- DOH- bee) | 5. adobe - a sun-dried brick made of clay or straw. Commonly used in countries with little rainfall. |
| 6. afflatus - | 6. afflatus - inspiration. |
| 7. alexia - | 7. alexia - the loss of the ability to understand written language. |
| 8. alienable - | 8. alienable - capable of being sold or transferred. |
| 9. allopathy - | 9. allopathy - the method of treating disease by agents that produce effects different from those produced by the disease. |
| 10. aneroid - | 10. aneroid - using no fluid |
| 11. argosy - | 11. argosy - a merchant vessel or a fleet carrying rich cargo. |
| 12. arrogate - | 12. arrogate - assume, demand for oneself, or appropriate presumptively. |
| 13. assay | 13. assay - 1. to test, examine or analyze. 2. to analyze an ore or alloy to determine the quantity of a particular metal like gold or silver in it. |
| 14. austral - | 14. austral - southern; lying in the southern hemisphere. |
| 15. autarchy - | 15. autarchy - 1. a national policy of self-sufficiency or independence, especially in economics. 2. an absolute government. |

ANSWERS:

NOTED & QUOTED

Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910),

We carve out order by leaving the disorderly parts out. - William James, (1842 - 1900)

Idealism kills. - Friedrich Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)

Canada is a society, rather than a nation.

- Kildare Dobbs, (1923 -), Canadian short story and travel writer

Canada has no cultural unity, no linguistic unity, no religious unity, no economic unity, no geographic unity. All it has is unity.

- Kenneth Boulding, (1910 - 1993), English-born U.S. economist, systems theorist

The mighty voice of Canada will ever call to me.

- Arthur Conan Doyle, ()

Americans like to make money: Canadians like to audit it. I know no country where accountants have a higher social and moral status.

- Northrop Frye, (1912 - 1991), Canadian literary critic and theorist

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

- George Carlin, (1937 - 2008)

We learn nothing by being right.

- Elizabeth Bibesco, (1897 - 1945), English novelist and poet

Divine fires do not blaze each day, but an artist functions in their afterglow, hoping for their recurrence."

- Ned Rorem, (1923 -), U.S. composer and diarist

Better shun the bait than struggle in the snare.

- John Dryden, (1631 - 1700), English poet and dramatist

Well it is known that ambition can creep as well as soar.

- Edmund Burke, (1729 - 1797)

Nature abhors a vacuum.

- Benedict Spinoza, (1632 - 1677)

Follow the grain in your own wood.

- Howard Thurman, (1899 - 1981), U.S. theologian, author, and civil rights activist, and author

By losing your goal, you have lost your way.

- Kahlil Gibran, (1884 - 1931), Syrian-American writer and artist

The great writers of aphorisms read as if they had all known each other well.

- Elias Canetti, (1905 - 1994), Bulgarian-born writer

One martini is all right, two is two many, three is not enough. - James Thurber, (1894 - 1961)

He was a writer who drank, not, as so many have believed, a drunk who wrote.

- James Lundquist, ()

Drinking makes such fools of people, and people are such fools to begin with, that it's compounding a felony. - Robert Benchley, (1889 - 1945), U.S. humorist, actor, and drama critic

A dependent clause is like a dependent child: incapable of standing on its own but able to cause a lot of trouble.

- William Safire, (1929 - 2009)

Consequences are un pitying.

- George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), (1819 - 1880), English novelist

Life is the only real counselor.

- Edith Wharton, (1862 - 1937),

Abner Doubleday didn't invent baseball, baseball invented Abner Doubleday.

- Harold Peterson, (), *The Man Who Invented Baseball* (1973)

The innocent and the beautiful have no enemy but time.

- W.B. (William Butler) Yeats, (1865 - 1939), Irish poet and dramatist

There's no use being young without being beautiful, and no use being beautiful without being young.

- Francois de la Rochefoucauld, (1613 - 1680), French epigrammatist

Many people do not reach their eighties because they try to stay in their forties too long.

- Salvador Dali, (1904 - 1989)

Boredom: the desire for desires.

- Leo Tolstoy, (1828 - 1910)

Enemies make you stronger, allies make you weaker.

- Frank Herbert, (1920 - 1986), U.S. science fiction novelist

'Know thyself,' said the old philosopher, 'improve thyself,' saith the new.

- Edward Bulwer-Lytton, (1803 - 1873), English politician and novelist

I am all for people having their heart in the right place; but the right place for a heart is not inside the head. - Katharine Whitehorn, (1928 -), British journalist, columnist, and author

If your head tells you one thing, and your heart tells you another, before you do anything, you should first decide whether you have a better head or a better heart. - Marilyn vos Savant, (1946 -), U.S. author and magazine columnist

I don't let my mouth say nothing my head can't stand. - Louis Armstrong, (1901 - 1971)

Death persecutes before it executes.

- Cynthia Ozick, (1928 -), Jewish-American novelist

If being a kid is about learning how to live, then being a grown-up is about learning how to die.

- Stephen King, (1947 -), U.S. horror writer

The telephone is the greatest nuisance among conveniences, the greatest convenience among nuisances."

- Robert Lynd, (1892 - 1970), U.S. sociologist

The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves."

- Niccolo Machiavelli, (1469 - 1527)

A person who is going to commit an inhuman act invariably excuses himself by saying, 'I'm only human, after all'.

- Sydney J. Harris, (1917 - 1986), U.S. newspaper columnist

The aim of education is to induce the largest amount of neurosis that the individual can bear without cracking. - W. H. (Wystan Hugh) Auden, (1907 - 1973), English-born U.S. poet

It is the essence of truth that it is never excessive. We must not resort to the flame where only light is required. - Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885)

No deep truth has ever been shouted.

- Juan Ramon Jimenez, (1881 - 1958), Spanish poet, 1956 Nobel Laureate in Literature

A writer's working hours are his waking hours. He is working as long as he is conscious and frequently when he isn't. - Edna Ferber, (1885 - 1968), U.S. author, novelist, and playwright

A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted. You should live several lives while reading it.

- William Styron, (1925 - 2006), U.S. novelist, essayist

Art and science are two sides of the same coin. Science is a discipline pursued with passion; art is a passion pursued with discipline. At pursuing both, I've had a lot of fun.

- Dr. Arthur Sackler, (1913 - 1918), U.S. psychiatrist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be."

- Douglas Adams, (1952 - 2001), British science fiction author

You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land.

- Henry David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862)

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