

Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC
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May was a fairly busy month for me, but just a little of it was Mensa-related (non-Mensa busyness included a bar mitzvah, two book launches, a Kickstarter project, and a science fiction convention). The first Wednesday of the month—as we’ve been doing for nigh unto two years—was Greater New York Mensa’s monthly trivia night, in which we squeaked out a victory. In the middle of the month was a late-planned SIGHT-coordinated get-together with two foreign members who were visiting New York City, and though the event was canceled at the last minute, four of us locally still wound up getting together for an evening of nice conversation in a tapas bar.

The second weekend of the month was Boston Mensa’s Cape Cod Mini-RG. As I’ve been saying, it may be time for them to drop the “mini” appellation, and just call it an RG without programming. The number of attendees continues to rise, and in keeping with modern RG-attending sensibilities, several flew in from across the country (I know there were people from Wisconsin, North Carolina, Illinois, California, and at least six from Texas). As I tend to do at conventions, I stayed up way too late hanging out with people I don’t often see, having a great time. I once again urge you to get out there and meet Mensans from beyond your local area. It used to be that you could only do so at the Annual Gathering, but with modern travel sensibilities, even an attractive Regional Gathering will draw them in. (Unfortunately, that means RGs separated by time zones may still be in conflict.)

June, too, promises to be a slower month Mensa-wise (well, there may be a few local events I can attend), but I’ve got my travel plans already booked for the AG in Indianapolis at the beginning of July.

And for those of you interested in the business of Mensa, the AG is the host of one of the four yearly meetings of the American Mensa Committee (the national board of directors), which is open for all members to watch how our business is transacted. Also at the AG is the Annual Business Meeting: the time when the AMC reports to the members of the state of our organization. I urge you all to attend the ABM. And finally, Saturday evening at the AG, I’ll be giving what I hope will be an entertaining and amusing talk entitled “John Kennedy’s grandma, Bill Clinton’s mother, and John Tyler’s grandchildren: Familial oddities of the Presidents of the United States.”

Remember, the newsletters (and calendars) from your nearby local groups are available to you on the Mensa web site (from the main us.mensa.org web site, pull down the “Read” tab and click on “Local Group newsletters”), and I urge you to share your events with those surrounding groups’ calendar editors. Keep up to date with the latest goings on in the region in Region 1’s Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188180494045/>

Upcoming Region 1 Regional Gatherings:

Mensa of Northeastern New York's RechaRGe, in Albany, New York (August 31–September 3). For more info, see <https://mensaofnortheasternny.wordpress.com> .

Boston Mensa's Wicked Good! 2018, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts (October 26–28). For more info, see <https://rg.bostonmensa.org/>.

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Glossary:

AMC: American Mensa Committee, the national board of directors

RVC: Regional Vice Chairman, a member of the AMC with responsibility for a specific region of American Mensa

Region 1: The northeast region of American Mensa, comprising New England, Northern New Jersey, and most of New York

AG: American Mensa's once-a-year five-day Annual Gathering, featuring the Annual Business Meeting, more than a hundred speakers, and more than a thousand Mensans.

RG: Regional Gathering: a weekend-long get-together hosted by a local group featuring speakers, games, events, and more with 100–400 of your closest friends you haven't met yet.

ExCom: Executive Committee, in some groups known as Board of Directors: the members who have volunteered and been elected to take care of the day-to-day business of operation a local group. The local group version of the AMC.