

Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC
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I frequently write about my travels in these columns, because reporting to you on my activities as RVC is part of my job. And a big piece of that job is interacting with the local groups around the region, being available to the members. I am your voice on the AMC, your interface with American Mensa, and the backstop for all the local volunteers who need help they can't find locally. (The next quarterly AMC meeting will be the first weekend in December in Chicago. If you have any concerns you want me to share on a national level, now's the time to tell me. But I'm willing to listen at any time.)

But another reason I write about all the picnics and parties and Regional Gatherings I'm attending is to urge you to attend them, too. I know that, in most cases, I'm reporting after the fact, and you won't be able to go back in time to the wonderful day or weekend I experienced. But in almost every case, that event I attended will be repeated next year (or possibly even next month). And I'm hoping my write-up will be that little nudge you need to get you out the door, to attend an event, and become a more active member.

In that same vein, I want to urge every newsletter editor, every event organizer, everyone who attends a Mensa event: a write-up (or advertisement) before the event is completely necessary, so people know to attend. But a write-up after the event—reporting on what happened, how many people were there, the great time they had—is just as important. In my own experience, it took a few iterations of events to really get some traction, to gather a core group of regular attendees, supplemented each time by new and sometime participants. But that's how I was able to start GNYM's Writers' SIG way back when, and the twice-monthly poker night. That's how our Colley Cibber SIG went from a joke, to a nice evening out, to an absolute must-attend on our monthly calendar for several years.

So this is that reminder, that nudge to you: when you get home from a great Mensa event, jot down a few sentences about what made it memorable to you, and then send those sentences to your editor. And think about taking some pictures and including them.

As for me? I just got back from Boston Mensa's Wicked Good RG, which was a wicked good time. There were brain-teasing puzzles, starting when we arrived. There was snack food available all weekend long. There were good hot meals served at meal times. There were great games that encouraged brain use and competition in a friendly, non-threatening environment. There were fascinating speakers on topics such as genealogy, publishing and Kickstarter, technophobia, Mount Washington, Turkey, commercial radio, synesthesia, Historic US Route 20, and therapy dogs. And there were interactive events, like pub trivia, jewelry making, embroidery, mosaic making, crafting, a spelling bee, a poker tournament, a costume contest, and karaoke. Also, this being Boston's RG, there was a full-size water park available for our use (I rode four waterslides, and spent some time on the lazy river and in the hot tub). So I'm encouraging you to join me next year, when I go back to that RG, because it's too late for you to attend in 2019. And

though every RG is different, with different speakers and different flavors, that brief sampling ought to encourage you to try some others. For instance, New Hampshire Mensa will be hosting their RG in February.

So, are you ready to experience Mensa? And then tell others about it (or not; that post-event report is wonderful, but not required of each member). Check out the calendar in this issue of your newsletter. And also remember that we're very lucky to be living in Region 1, where the local groups are very close together. If there's nothing in your own local group's calendar that matches your schedule, check out the neighboring local groups. Their newsletters (and calendars) 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 Gathering:

New Hampshire Mensa's RG at the End of the Universe: (February 14–16, 2020) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more info, see <https://nhmensa.org/rgnews.php>

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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.

ExComm: 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 of a local group. The local group version of the AMC.

LocSec: Local Secretary, aka president: the elected leader of a local group (the name comes from our British roots)

SIGHT: the Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers
(<https://www.us.mensa.org/connect/sight/>)

YM: Young Mensan: teenaged members and those younger

YAM: Young Adult Mensan: members in their 20s and 30s