

# SUNFLOWER SEEDS



July 2019, Volume – 47, Issue # 7

Kansas Sunflower Mensa



*Summer can bring unpredictable weather to the plains. Anyone who has lived in Kansas can attest to the fact that a line of fluffy clouds can be a portent of blessed rain or dread storm, tempest, hail and flood.*

**Sunflower Seeds** ©2019, Wichita, Kansas Sunflower Mensa, is distributed to chapter members and select individuals. Mensa is a non-profit international society whose sole requirement for qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any accepted standard tests, or by submission of properly certified prior evidence.

All unsigned material in the Sunflower Seeds is either by the editorial staff or obtained from public domain. Items may be reprinted (if not individually copyrighted) if you're another Mensa publication. Be sure to provide proper credit to the author and **Sunflower Seeds**. No other reprinting is permitted without prior written permission of the Publication's Editor.

Contributions may be submitted at any time, but for publication in the next issue, it must be received by the 20th of the preceding month. All contributions must be signed but may be published anonymously or under a pseudonym. The Editors have total discretion to reject or edit submissions and advertisements according to style, taste and space requirements. Though the decisions of the Editors may on occasion be capricious, they are always final. Any and all opinions expressed herein are solely that of the editor unless otherwise specified and in no way reflect the attitudes of other members of the chapter or of Mensa.

Paid advertising is accepted on a space-available basis at \$40 per full page, \$25 per 1/2 page, \$15 per 1/4 page. Rates are double for non-members. All ads must be renewed each month. Classified ads are free to members in good standing.

**Sunflower Seeds** is the Official Publication of the Wichita Kansas Sunflower Mensa #670, published twelve times a year. ISDN applied for. The subscription fee of \$5.00 is included in annual dues paid to Wichita Sunflower Mensa and American Mensa, Ltd.; other subscriptions are \$18.00 per year.

Editor: R. Klaus Trenary, contact me at: [editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org)

## Officers for 2019:

**LocSec:** Larry Paarmann, 316-209-3752,  
locsec@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Asst. LocSec:** Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,  
asstlocsec@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Treasurer:** Diane Powell, 316-617-8423,  
treasurer@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Program Chair:** Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,  
programchair@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Publications:** Gordon Bakken, 316-687-9402,  
publications@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Editor, Seeds:** R. Klaus Trenary, 316-648-6536,  
editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Recruit & Test:** Dan Gollub, 316-322-3087,  
testing@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Associate Proctor:** Position OPEN -

**Mem. at Large:** Ronnie Lee Ingle, 316- 631-3514,  
memberatlarge@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Ombudsman:** Mike Dickson, 316-651-4707,  
ombudsman@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

**Region – 7 VC:** Rich Olcott, 720-390-7889,  
rolcott@mindspring.com

**American Mensa Ltd.:**

1-888-294-8035

**Chapter's Official Web Sites:**

<https://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460/>

## July Group Events:

**Saturday 6th 12:45pm - MONTHLY PIG OUT  
A CHANCE TO DINE WITH MENSA FRIENDS.**

**CHIANG MAI THAI**

**3141 S HILLSIDE**

**[HTTP://CHIANGMAITHAIKS.COM](http://chiangmaithaiks.com)**

**Saturday 13th 2:00pm - GUEST SPEAKER  
PRESENTATIONS OF INTEREST, STATED MEETING**

**FAIRMOUNT COFFEE, MEETING ROOM**

**3815 E 17<sup>TH</sup> ST**

**[HTTP://WWW.FAIRMOUNTCOFFEE.COM](http://www.fairmountcoffee.com)**

**Saturday 20th 11:00am – MONTHLY FIELD TRIP  
JOIN US FOR A FUN ROAD TRIP.**

**WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT AREA**

**4701 E DOUGLAS**

**[HTTPS://KANSASAVIATIONMUSEUM.ORG](https://kansasaviationmuseum.org)**

**Saturday 27th 7:00pm – BANTER AND BOOKS  
GOOD CAMARADERIE AND DISCUSSIONS.**

**BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA**

**1920 N ROCK RD**

**[HTTP://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM](http://www.stores.barnesandnobles.com)**



Figure 1: The main terminal viewed from the rear.

### This Month's Pig Out:



Delicious Asian style Thai and Chinese food! Located on the corner of 31st and Hillside, just 2 city blocks west of McConnell Air Force Base

### This Month's Guest Speaker:

Engineer and author Naseer Ali will give a presentation on the book *Introduction to Societal Systems Engineering, Engineering for Sustainable Societies and Nations*, by Alan Choudhry.

### Chapter Field Trip for July:

We will be heading across the city to the South side on the edge of the air base. Our destination will be the historic Kansas Aviation Museum. Located at 3350 George Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS 67210, near 31st South.

The Kansas Aviation Museum building was the former Wichita Municipal Airport terminal from 1935 to 1951. A number of vintage aircraft as well as a restored 1930's era terminal is explorable.

**<https://kansasaviationmuseum.org>**



Figure 2: This lovely flower is from the prairie forb *Desmanthus illinoensis*, which only blooms for a few days each year.

## Last Month's Pig Out:

### Neighbor's Bar & Grill

On June 1, 2019, we met for lunch at Neighbors Bar and Grill, 2315 W. 21st St., Wichita, KS.



The food was excellent! The prices are very reasonable. And, of course, the good conversation was also excellent. Two recommendations: the catfish dinner and the cheeseburger.



## Last Month's Guest Speaker:



Our program speaker for the June Program meeting, held on June 8th, 2019, was Bridgette Pirtle. Bridgette grew up in San Antonio, Texas and spent some ten years at Sea World as an animal trainer. Following that, she spent about two years as an elephant trainer at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita. Her presentation

was wide-ranging on topics such as orcas, elephants, and the environment. We recorded the presentation and it is posted on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQnZ1kaa1Y&feature=youtu.be>

**Last Month's Field Trip:** We visited the World-renowned Kansas Space Museum in Hutchinson. The event was to be underwritten by the Seeds, and all members in attendance got free admission.

Way too much to see and assimilate in just one day. We were lucky enough to have our very own tour guide, who interjected trivia and insights not available from the displays.

We all stopped in Yoder on the way back to either eat dinner or bring home one of their luscious giant cinnamon rolls.



## ExCom Meeting in July

There will be an Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, July 13, 2019, immediately after the Program Meeting on that day is over (about 3:30 PM or so). Reminder: although only those who are members of the Executive Committee are allowed to vote, all members are welcome to attend and join in on the discussion. Please submit agenda items to Larry Paarmann before the meeting on July 13th, or bring them up during the "As may arise" section of the meeting.





## Heartland Mensa Region 7



Several things to celebrate this month. Independence Day, for one, and all our Scholarship winners, for another. For the 2019-2020 academic year, our Heartland Region essayists garnered 22 Mensa Foundation scholarships, all together worth

\$15,100. Thanks go to all our Local Group and Regional essay judges and to the donors and event participants who made that possible. Event participants? Yes, fundraising events, everything from a benefit auction at an RG to each CultureQuest® team and the AG's "Mr Mensa" ... um ... pageant, all pouring dollars into the Foundation's scholarship funds. You can find the full list of winners at [mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/scholarship-winners/](https://mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/scholarship-winners/).

Oh, yeah, CultureQuest, the uniquely Mensan national team trivia contest. The Heartland Region mounted eight teams this year

- *Clear Lake Clear Thinkers*, from **Central Iowa Mensa**
- *Heart of America*, from **Mid-America Mensa**
- *you go girls!* from **Nebraska-Western Iowa Mensa**
- *Questionable Behavior* (one of my favorite team names) and *Singularity* from **Denver Mensa**
- *Alferd Packer Catering* (another favorite, and yes, that's how he spelled it – look him up and you'll understand the name) from **Boulder/Front Range Mensa**
- *Peaks Pinnacles* and *Prime of the Plains* from **Plains and Peaks Mensa**

The ratings won't be announced until the Annual Gathering in July but I've got my fingers crossed for all of us.

I don't want to close off this month without paying tribute to Tony Jackowski, the other candidate who ran for RVC-7 for this coming term. He and Kim have been mainstays of Mid-America Mensa for a long time. Beyond that, Tony has served Mensa in many positions

at both national and international levels. With his long history of volunteering and gaining Mensan friends and experiences along the way, he personifies "Give and it shall be given unto you." What a great role model for other Mensans. Thanks, Tony, and keep doing. ~~~ Rich

## Fathers Play a Critical Role in Child Development

By: Diane Powell

Fathers are no longer the "forgotten" factor in child development as was observed by leading child psychologist Michael E. Lamb nearly 30 years ago [see website] "Scholars now know that boys and girls who grow up with an involved father, as well as an involved mother, have stronger cognitive and motor skills, enjoy elevated levels of physical and mental health, become better problem-solvers, and are more confident, curious, and empathetic. They also show more moral sensitivity and self-control."

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/appreciating-how-fathers-give-children-head-start> This Head-Start article notes that over 100 studies document the positive impact fathers have on child development.

In his book, *Life Without Father: Compelling new evidence that fatherhood and marriage are indispensable for the good of children and society* [1996], Rutgers Sociology Professor David Popenoe marshalls an array of evidence from history and demographics. He notes that each parent has a unique impact on the development of their child into a mature adult capable of exercising various civic virtues such as honesty and self-sacrifice: "Men typically emphasize play more than caretaking, and their play is more likely to involve a rough-and-tumble approach. In attitude and behavior, mothers tend to be responsive and fathers firm; mothers stress emotional security and relationships, and fathers stress competition and risk taking; mothers typically express more concern for the child's immediate well-being, while fathers express more concern for the child's long-run autonomy and independence." [pp. 11-12]

These differences apparently balance each other out, providing a unique flexibility and perspective to each child on their way to maturity.

*The Fatherstyle Advantage* [2006] by Kevin O'Shea and James Windell provides insight as well as practical advice on fathering. O'Shea is a former attorney and stay-at-home dad, Windell a juvenile court psychologist. For example, one chapter is entitled The Power of Play and another deals with how to create a culture of expectation. The authors describe the eight essentials of play activity; time for play, floor play, physical play, following play, go-between play, verbal play, silly play, and exploratory play. Each type offers a unique opportunity for growth in a variety of areas including physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. The authors specifically caution the parents against over structuring playtime or intimidating the child into doing what dad or mom wants to do rather than responding to the child's needs.

Glenn Stanton reports on the New Family Structure Study conducted by Mark Regnerus, Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas, Austin. This study is considered unique and ground-breaking and comes from the highly regarded Population Research Center at the UT Austin. His methodology was reviewed pre-start by academics from five leading American universities. Regnerus found notable differences on many outcomes. Children raised in married intact/father/mother homes had significantly higher levels of educational attainment and economic stability, as well as physical, mental and emotional health than those raised in same-sex homes.

[<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/about/focus-findings/family-formation-trends/regnerus-family-structures-study> ]

In his book *Protecting the Gift: Keeping Children and Teenagers Safe...* [1999] Gavin DeBecker, consultant to judges and presidents, notes that parents provide a critical defense system to young which are born exceedingly vulnerable- a condition that lasts for many years. What happens when this structure is incomplete or inadequate? Concerned about negative destructive patterns among the youth, such as gangs, suicide, drugs, and teen pregnancy, Dan Korem, author of the book *Suburban Gangs* [1995] was able to uncover and apply something he calls the **Missing Protector Strategy**

[MPS]. Korem credits Dr. Maria Kopp, a Hungarian sociologist and practicing psychiatrist, for identifying the Missing Protector Factor upon which his strategy is based.

Korem found that those youths who were unable to count on a family member in a crisis were much more likely to get involved in gang activities. When he was able to convince them that the gang actually put their lives at greater risk, he was able to reduce the impact the gangs had on the community in question. He then created a mentoring strategy which has been applied successfully in many communities to help provide needed security to young people. For more information; see [<http://www.ifpinc.com/books/suburban-gangs/missing-protector-strategy/> ]

The facts are clear. Fathers provide unique and diverse benefits for their children's development, ranging from physical and mental health to confidence and problem-solving skills. Especially important are the mentions of "moral sensitivity and self-control" which clearly reflect not just indices of personal success but the personal character of each individual with broad-scale applications. Given the breadth and depth of these findings for the critical value of fathers in preparing children to take their place in society, it seems wise to affirm this goal whenever possible.

## Reply to June's Rape Article:

By: Gordon Bakken

In the May issue of SEEDS, Bill Barnett had an article on "Rape Culture." He implied that our country has a culture which condones rape. I do not think that is true. It is obvious to most men that a victim could very easily be their girlfriend, wife, sister, mother or daughter. That would be very painful to them. Thus, they realize that to make those they love safe, rape in general must be stopped.

The reason that rape is so common, and is often not even reported, is not that police, prosecutors, judges or juries condone rape, but because it is so hard to prove in court. Consider these examples.

Example 1. A boss says he will fire a girl if she does not submit. She submits. In court, the boss says he made no such threat. How can the truth be established?

Example 2. Same as example 1, except she does not submit, and is fired. The boss says that was not the reason she was fired. How can the jury know?

Example 3. Date rape occurred. He said she consented. She says she did not. Poor jury.

Example 4. Stranger rape. The man says she initiated it, and even that she charged money. If there are signs of injury, that is good evidence. However, it is unlikely but not impossible, that it was self-inflicted.

In short, it is not approval of the act, but the difficulty of proving it that is the problem. If the courts make it too difficult to prove, that endangers women. If they make it too easy to prove, that could endanger men. A woman could hurt a man easily (whatever her reason) by simply making an unfounded accusation.

Here is a proposed solution. Accept truth enhancing methods in court. Three of these are: 1) lie detectors, 2) truth serum, 3) hypnotism. All three could be applied to both the accused and the accuser. If they tell the same story, the trial is over.

## Maarieda - The Landing

Bill Barnett

June 22, 2019

### Chapter - One

In anticipation they watched the monitor. It had been twenty-five years since they left Earth. The kids were in awe as they looked at the planet below. They had seen pictures of Earth and Maarieda before, but that was just geography class, something not quite real until now. They had never set foot on a planet. The ship was the only home they knew. Grass, trees, lakes, and mountains were fairy tales, the stuff of imagination. But now below them it was beginning to look real, as if they might actually run through a meadow or climb a mountain.

It is time to study the environment. The adults had been there before. People could live there. There was water, oxygen, and a mild temperature in the temperate regions. But nothing to eat. The plants had no nutritional value. Nothing was toxic and they did not encounter pathogenic microbes. It seemed they were the only source of contamination. And with no new microbes from other people they never got sick. But it had not been a pleasant place. It just did not feel right in spite of no scientific reason someone was wrong. Maybe Earth was like this in the distant past.

They were studying the terraformation of the planet. That was the big gamble. Could the planet be made habitable for humans? They had to find out. There was a spider web of new forests and grasslands across the landscape. Flowering plants replaced the primitive moss where they had terraformed. The ends of the webs were where the agribots died. They simply came to the end of their lives after years of planting. And there were areas where the plantings died out and the moss returned. The computer analysis said 85% effective. That was success. Maarieda should now be able to feed humans. It was difficult to find traces of the animals they left. They should be everywhere, but little evidence was found. Hopefully they just could not see them from where they were.

There were two more weeks of study before they could land. They could almost taste fresh food. Space-ship food was bad. About all that can be said for it was it is nutritious. Even all the spices could not make it good. It was a scientific nightmare. Frankenstein food. It met all the scientific needs of a human and none of the esthetic needs. They had forgotten how bad it was after all these years. Now they remembered. The kids did not know the difference. Maybe fresh food would be strange to them. They did not like the spices their parents craved to cover the drab taste of ship food.

It was a five-year trip to Maarieda, the first landing. That was ship time. Universe time it was six hundred years. Everyone and everything they knew on Earth was gone. Communication was lost early. There was a war and civilization collapsed. The plan to maintain contact failed. All the scientific data they were sending just went into empty space. Two more ships were coming. Three ships had been canceled due to budget cuts. The ark, the tool ship, and mining ship were half built and now abandoned. The other two ships were pirated before being cancelled and left early just as the administration changed. There were twenty-four humans left alive with technology. And maybe a few survivors on Earth who had to return to a primitive state. The prospect here was a viable settlement but no way to maintain technology. Humans would return to a primitive state. But they could give them a good start.

When they arrived for the first landing the planet was a strange sight covered in moss and ferns. There were no flowering plants and no detectable animal life. And plenty of algae in the seas. Almost exactly like the algae on Earth. Even the DNA was the same. Studying life on the new planet pretty much proved the theory of panspermia. How much Earth life evolved and how much landed there from space was now the question? That was one of their missions. To study all of this and send the data to Earth so more planets could be successfully settled. And maybe even save the planet Earth. And now there was no audience other than the other two ships. They were alone. Just twelve humans and hoping for another twelve from the other ships.

People made fun of the subatomic particle drive. Said it was just another string theory, something nonexistent an egghead dreamed up to waste tax money. From the time their training started they went from heroes to the laughingstock of news media. Now the nonexistent drive based on "fake" science carried them through the galaxy and they were on a terraformed planet. A New Eden for a new human race. They could not beat the speed of light with a warp drive. Every try at that failed. But there was way around the time required to travel to another star system. Accelerate at one G. In 354 days, they would be at the speed of light if it were not for relativity, but they would be close enough the time dilation would make the trip short for the people on the ship.

It was interesting watching the kids get ready for the landing. It was as if they did not really get where they were going. All the survival classes did not seem to register. It had been different for the adults. They went through the harshest training possible. For them it was applied education, not just book learning. The kids would learn. Linda, the second oldest, was the natural leader. Having just turned fifteen she was in the middle of her college studies. She could keep the others working together when they were not in a sibling battle. Michael, the skeptic and oldest, kept everyone in line

intellectually. They did not believe all his criticism, but he made them think and prove their ideas. The challenges they will be facing are unpredictable, but Michael was making them prepare. Lisa, the youngest, was the peacemaker. Her sweet disposition calmed the storms between the others. She came along later. Bob and Sally could not conceive a second child. After years of trying they gave up, so Sam and Mindy had a third. The plan was for six adults to have six children to populate the new planet. They children needed to be strong when they landed. It would be too late in life for the adults to have families after they landed. But now they seemed young for their age. Without the constant attack of new viruses their bodies were young. So maybe four of the adults could have more family.

With five teenagers in full puberty they were in a sex battle. It looked like a bunch of siblings full of hormones with had no idea how to act. In sex ed they were curious and silly like most children, but totally grossed out by the thought of being with people they thought were brother and sister. No amount of explanation and logical reasoning could change the idea that psychologically they were brother and sister. They were going to have to sort out the conflict between romance and incest themselves. That would be interesting to watch. The parents gave up on the issue and decided to leave it to nature.

It is landing day. The shuttle was loaded with six people and supplies. Amie the pilot and Captain ran down the checklist for the shuttle three times. James the Commander went over the schedule with the others. He was second in command. They would land on the coast of New Germania, a large temperate island with the most successful terraforming. The coast was tropical and never froze. Inland was a temperate forest. And mountains were just 100 clicks away. It is an excellent place for growing food. Their village would be New Eden. The first order of the plan is to start crops and animal husbandry. They would live in a tent until housing could be built. Everyone is excited. It is new experience for Linda and Michael. They are frenemies, the closest of best friends and sexually repulsed by each other. They had no blood relation but were like twin brother and sister. Amie and James were Linda's parents. But now it was military order. Everyone was under the strictest of orders until they were safely on the ground. The shuttle was twenty-five years old and had many trips from the terraforming mission. Everything seemed perfect but they could not afford assumptions.

They were off. Weightlessness was making the teens sick and excited. They were enjoying the sensation. The planet looked bigger and bigger as it filled the window. The emerald green of the vegetation was enchanting. After circling the landing area three times the shuttle set down. Breaking protocol the teens rushed past the adults and tumbled down the stairs landing on a gravel beach. They tore off running across the meadow in pure joy. The air was fresh and had a wonderful smell. It was not like anything they experienced before. Rolling in the tall green grass they embraced and kissed. Realizing what they had done they backed off from each other in disgust and returned to the shuttle to begin working on the colony. There was lots of work to do. And the other shuttle would come in a few days.

None of the prairie chickens were left. They were the best bird for the area according to Earth research and they were all gone. They had overpopulated and exhausted the food

available and completely died off. The product of an unbalanced ecology. A trip in the ultralight later on, showed their decedents on New Austria, another island. Somehow, they made it there and evolved into seven very different subspecies. It was like the Galapagos Islands. Two subspecies became predators and controlled the population. One almost looked like eagles. They were four times the mass of their ancestors. Another had the look of a peregrine falcon. But they still had some resemblance to prairie chickens. There was the mini-emu which was purely terrestrial, a tiny bird that lived in holes in the ground, and three song birds living in trees. So here the animals had formed a balanced ecology. The bugs were doing better here. Every kind of caterpillar and butterfly lived here. There was even a form of oats that had evolved into a prairie grass. Nine hundred years in an untouched environment gave free rein to epigenetic evolution.

The pudu deer were gone too and the royal antelope. Hopefully the same happened to them as did the prairie chickens. They were easy to feed on the ship because of their small size and could be used for embryo transfer just like the prairie chickens. They would bring many species to the new world. On the ship were cryogenically frozen embryos of hundreds of species that needed a host. Fish, reptile, and amphibian eggs could just be frozen. Many had been released in the terraforming, but none could be found today.

The ocean water once tested with signs of shrimp and other animal life, but now none could be found. They would have to set up a shrimp farm. That was the main protein on the ship, and ship shrimp had no taste whatsoever. Hopefully ocean shrimp would be better. They remembered how, on Earth, the shrimp were a tasty delicacy.

The shuttle was unloaded, and camp set up. Tomorrow they will explore. Star-set was awe inspiring. The kids were amazed with the campfire. It was like something from science fiction. It was impossible to sleep, the adventure was so intense.

Watching the star rise was a dream come true. The kids were asleep as they hardly slept all night. After dragging them out of bed half the group followed the coast north and half followed it south. There were a few shells on the beach, so some sea life took hold. But no shrimp. The ship had one kind of shrimp, dull grey, tasteless shrimp. Shrimp were a delicacy on Earth. And the adults fondly remembered that. Twenty species were planted in the ocean. Hopefully they will find them some day. And get tasty food again. There was another campfire and another night of ship rations. The kids thought their parents were crazy wanting planet food so bad. They found some coconuts, but they were out of season. One food source identified.

Another star rise, and everyone was awake. Today was the day to explore the forest. There were fruit and trees there. Near the camp were avocado trees. They were old and withered and had a few avocados. Everyone ate avocados until they were bursting at the seams. Even the kids loved them. On the way home they found some bananas. They were out of season, but there were a few. Now everyone was sick from eating too much. Day two and three food sources identified. It was a successful day. The next day the other shuttle would come. Only Sam and Lisa would be back at the ship monitoring the environment. The other shuttle would bring one of the rovers and longer exploration could begin.



Day four and everyone was up for star-rise. The shuttle landed with Sam, Doug, Kristi, and Terri. Everyone was running through the meadow. Kristi chased Doug and tackled him. They were close like twins too. But Kristi, the tomboy, had a crush on Doug. She was always hitting him and when he complained everyone laughed. They all knew it was just play. At fourteen Doug was blind to Kristi's puppy love and wiped off her kiss. He wasn't interested. It was yucky being kissed by a sister, even if they were not related. The parents laughed. It looked like the village would be a success. They planned the next day's exploration. There was a walnut forest that might have some nuts. And another night with a campfire.

Day five found the adults traveling into the forest. Moss and ferns were an impossible barrier to cross. There were long stretches of grassland cut through the moss. The grass barely made any progress into the moss. It would seem like after 900 universe years the grass would spread, but it didn't. The trees were massive, and the forest was spreading into the moss and taking over. It was clear and easy driving under the forest. They left markers to identify a path. There were walnuts everywhere. They only made 25 clicks because they were documenting everything. They were hoping to find one of the agribots, but its beacon was dead. The beacon was designed to last, but it didn't. Maybe tomorrow. When they got back to the village the kids had the new agribot out and were playing with it trying to learn how it worked. That would be for tomorrow. It could start a garden. The campfire had become a nightly ritual. The kids loved it. They were surprised at how hot the day was and how cool it was at night. All their lives they had a constant temperature and now that was gone.

Day six found them training the kids how to program the agribot. It started plowing a small garden. There was a discussion on seeds and vegetables and grains. Imagine eating food from the ground instead of a ship. It was a new idea. The kids only knew processed food. The machine was slow but ran all day and all night. They made a plan to recover the remains of the old agribots. Some could be reached by rover and some by the ultralight. With repair parts some would come back to life.

Day seven was a rest day, an old-fashioned tradition. Experience taught them they needed it. When they tried to ignore the idea they got less done. The body and mind was not right without a rest day. So everyone just played and ate and built a bigger campfire.

Day six and one shuttle was off to the ship for more supplies. The rover was hunting fruit trees and the ultralight was hunting old agribots. Everything was progressing except they were still dependent on the ship for protein. That would be hard to come by. The shrimp farm was started. It would take the second agribot months to build it.

New moon came after forty-two days. It seemed like a good time to celebrate. They had forgotten about moon phases and such. Moons were just more round rocks on a chart until they looked up and saw the full moon lighting up the night. It was brighter than Earth's moon. They named it Dianna. That sounded good and brought back good memories. It was just a star chart name before. Twenty years before to the day they set foot here the first time. Four years of hard work left a mark on the planet. It was not a habitable place, unless one wanted to eat ship rations and die. The garden wouldn't grow anything. When they tried grass, it barely grew. After nine hundred universe

years the soil changed, and the environment began to change. That was the plan to change the local environment and it worked. For them it was sixteen ship years. The formula said they only needed a little less than six space years for nine hundred universe years, but there were black holes in the area, and they had to be avoided. The ship zigzagged the area. Some black holes had been identified from Earth, but some were found as they traveled. And the pulsing stars had to be avoided. From Earth it was smooth sailing, but to circle this part of the galaxy required a complex route.

Everyone danced all night. The teenagers displayed their angst, with their love hate relationships as their hormones drove them on. And then there was talk of a vineyard. Spaceship vodka was terrible. There is something about being locked up in a can for a third of your life and now experiencing freedom under the stars. Yes, stars, ornaments in the sky, inspiring everyone with their beauty. Not just points on a chart. The sky had freckles, just like the faces of everyone there. The sunset was like their hair. Birds of a feather flock together and they were all redheads. They liked it that way. And chose the crew it. The Captain was the top cosmonaut in training. She / he would pick the next crew member. Then they picked the next and so on with all the crew picking the next person. The even named themselves homo maariedan, a new species of humans. And that they would be.

By the second Dianna festival the ship was unloaded. Sam and Mindy were making boat trips up the coast to see what was there. The water analysis showed sea life, but the nets returned nothing. Nine hundred years was nothing in the life of an ocean. If the ocean currents swept the sea life away it could be thousands of years before it circled the globe and returned. They had to study the currents and plan where to put the remaining seed for the sea. They wanted the currents to wash in sea life, not wash it away. Linda and Michael took up the task and were studying the ocean currents. Amie took the shuttle back into orbit and scanned the oceans so they would have the data they needed. The young couple was beginning to like each other. Hormones were winning.

In the third month Bob and Sally captured some of the birds from New Austria. It was time to start the embryo transfer program. It would take a long time. They did not have the limitless supply of birds that was hoped for. The others were out looking for the deer and antelope. Without them there would be no mammals other than humans. It is possible for humans to provide donor wombs, but they need more humans. They did find a frog on one of the islands on the other side of the planet. The whole island was covered with them and they named it Frog Island. They could spread their frog eggs plus the few they had left from the first trip.

The inventory showed twelve humans with two pregnant, seven subspecies of birds with new chicks from three more species, frogs, five kinds of fruit, and two kinds of nuts. 1% of the land was terraformed and it would take another thousand years for the new plants and animals to cover the planet. The garden and shrimp farm looked promising. Twelve more humans were coming in a few years. The future was promising, but there would be problems to solve and probably some setbacks. Not all the terraforming was successful which was no surprise. They had a long way to go to settle Maaireda.



## Mensan Owned and Operated

Blake Escritt - Independence, KS

- **Managed IT Services**

- Proactive Monitoring & Maintenance
- Secure Remote Support
  - Instant Technician Engagement
- Patch Compliance (Windows & Over 130 Apps)
- Enterprise Antivirus & Backup Solutions
- Easy Trouble Ticketing

<https://www.IndyTechFix.com/managed-it-service>