

# *Sunflower Seeds*



**Wichita on the River at Night**

**Zoom meetings on Saturdays at 4:00 PM  
Link Inside**

**August 2021, Volume – 49, Issue # 8  
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter**

## Officers for 2021

LocSec: Bill Barnett 316-214-3330 [grandledge@hotmail.com](mailto:grandledge@hotmail.com)

Acting Editor: Bill Barnett

Asst. LocSec: Igor Ponomaryov

Treasurer: David Fetherston

Program Chair: Bill Barnett

Publication Chair: Gracie Ulrich

Membership Chair: Dan Gollub

Mem. at Large: James Zongker

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson

Region – 7 VC: Beth Anne Demeter [bethane.demeter@gmail.com](mailto:bethane.demeter@gmail.com)

Web Contact: Igor Ponomaryov

For questions concerning Seeds contact the Acting Editor through the American Mensa website or through the Facebook page. Contact other officers through the American Mensa website.

## Chapter's Official Web Sites

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds](http://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds)

## Submissions Guidelines

The Sunflower Seeds is published monthly. Quarterly there will be a larger newsletter with more articles. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Members in good standing may submit articles, puzzles, photography, etc. to the editor for publication. To submit an article for the newsletter send it to [grandledge@hotmail.com](mailto:grandledge@hotmail.com)

Articles should be submitted as a WORD document or Mac Pages document. The font should be Times New Roman 12 pt.

## Why You Should Write For Seeds

This is your newsletter. You are talented and can make it better. More participation strengthens the group. People have told the editor that they like the Seeds. If you feel that way it is time to write.

# The Pig-Out Column

Recommendations from the Head Pig, Mike Dickson:

Check with Mike (316-871-3379) if you have suggestions or questions concerning the Pig-Outs.

**September 4, 2021, 12:45pm**

P. F. Chang's, 1401 Waterfront Pkwy, Wichita  
316-634-2211

**October 2, 2021, 12:45pm**

LongHorn Steakhouse, 440 S. Towne East Mall  
Dr., Wichita 316-618-8681

**November 6, 2021, 12:45pm**

Café Bel Ami, 229 E. William St., Wichita  
316-267-3433



Pig-Outs are the perfect place to invite friends.

## Meeting Schedule

**1st Saturday, September 4, 2021, 12:45pm - Pigout**

See The Pig-Out Column for more details.



**2nd Saturday September 11 at 2:00 pm**

**David Hodgeston will speak on WWI.**

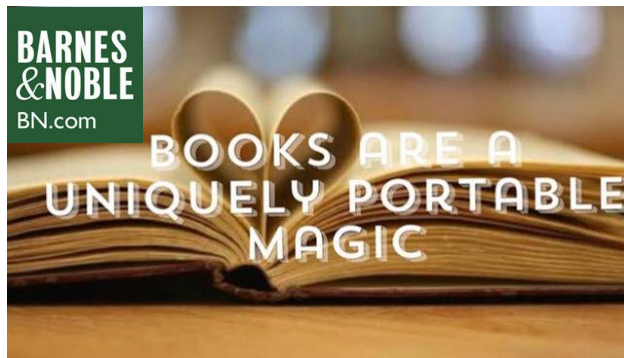
Dave is a retired history professor. The Program Meeting will be at Fairmont Coffee Company in their conference room. Their cafe is open and all are encouraged to buy lunch or a drink. Fairmont Coffee Company is a non profit and it would be good to give them a \$20 donation if people want to chip in.

**3rd Saturday, August 21 at 11:00 am**

The outdoor seating at Prost, 2721 E Central Ave #101, Wichita, KS 67214. If the weather does not permit sitting outside we will move inside. This is part of the Revolutsia shopping center. There is a coffee shop and other shops as well as the German restaurant.



**4th Saturday, August 28 at 7:00 pm**



Barnes and Noble Cafe at 7:00 pm. 1920 N Rock Rd, Wichita, KS 67206

**Zoom Meetings Saturdays at 4:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTISQT09>

Igor Ponomaryov is the Zoom coordinator. Contact him or the editor for Zoom information.

## LocSec Corner

Bill Barnett

The group is looking for an editor. I enjoy it, but I am wearing too many hats. Contact me if you are interested.

The group has one proctor and is looking for another. It would be better to have three. Contact me or Dan Gollub if you are interested.

Send your pictures to the editor along with their stories and they will be published here. You are talented and can be a writer for Seeds. Send your articles, letters, comments, and pictures for Seeds.

# Heartland Mensa Region Seven

Beth Anne Demeter

Greetings Region 7! This is a tough column to write, being in the strange in-between of writing in August before I go to the World Gathering and knowing you'll read this after the event ends. I'm sure there will be an incredible amount to report on, tell you and discuss! So count on next month's column being chock-full of good stuff.

For now, I can easily tell you things are warming up in the RVC world. For one, the Mensa National Office hosted the AMC just after Fourth of July weekend for a two-day event. The first day was an orientation session and team-building session for all AMC members (not just those who are new). This was a great day because, when I was on the AMC in the past, only new folks had the orientation session. I felt like our first official meeting then came with a division between new and experienced members. Not so this time around – here we all discussed items, heard the same information, learned about board governance together and more.

The second day at the National Office was an official meeting. There were a few stumbles as some folks asked insightful questions about parliamentary procedure and background on motions, but everyone was instructive and constructive. All this gives me every confidence that this AMC is already a solid team. We're using our differences of opinion and diversity (in general) to make better decisions that will serve all regions and Mensa groups!

Additionally, it was a great weekend when it simply came to being in Texas (golly darn it was HOT), and especially interacting with the National Office. The office building is brand new (to us) in that the purchased space was built out to our specifications. And it's nice!! Communal areas foster collaboration, individual working areas inspire thought and, probably most importantly, it doesn't leak. And of course, spending time with the Office staff helped greatly to know who can answer questions and more.

I'm always happy to share more information about my experiences, and would love to hear your thoughts about how to improve and what I can take back to AMC meetings. Feel welcome to reach out!

You're always welcome to reach out to me via email at [bethane.demeter@gmail.com](mailto:bethane.demeter@gmail.com). Thanks, all!

## Program Speakers

This is your group. You are talented and can make it better. Its time for you to speak to the group. Contact Bill Barnett with your topic.

MINUTES OF KANSAS SUNFLOWER MENSA (“KSM”) BOARD MEETING AUGUST 14, 2021 2:00 PM

Kansas Sunflower Mensa Executive Committee (“Board”) met on Aug 13, 2021 at 2:00 pm in a conference room of the Fairmount Coffee Company in Wichita, KS.

Present in person:

Bill Barnett, Local Secretary  
Igor Ponomarev, Assistant Local Secretary  
James Zongker, Member at Large

Dave Fetherston, Treasurer was participating via a phone call, and came towards the end of the meeting in person.

Agenda items:

1. Opening an account for Kansas Sunflower Mensa with Fidelity Bank. Changing from a BOA account to Fidelity Bank.
2. Approving past invoices from Bill Barnett for KSM newsletter (“Seeds”) publication for 7 months of 2021 from January to July.
3. Format of Seeds in the future: should it be in its present form, or reduced to 4 pages.
4. Future allowance for publication of Seeds at Bill Barnett’s request in the amount of \$70.00 per one monthly issue.
5. Approval of Treasurer’s Report for 01/01/2021 through 07/31/2021.
6. Approval of Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Board which took place 01/09/2021.

Resolutions:

1. By 3 votes, Board approved item one. Dave Fetherston abstained, the rest voted for the measure. Motion passed.
2. By 3 votes, Board approved Bill Barnett’s invoice for 7 issues x \$70.00 = \$490.00 for publishing Seeds through the month of July, 2021. Igor Ponomarev abstained, the rest of the Board voted in favor. Motion passed.

Dave Fetherston, later present in person, wrote a check to Bill Barnett for the above amount.

3. The majority of the Board present voted to keep Seeds newsletter in its present format. Igor Ponomarev voted against the measure, the rest of the Board voted in favor. Motion passed.
4. The majority of the Board present voted to keep the allowance for Seeds publication payable to a current Editor in the amount of \$70.00 per issue. Igor Ponomarev voted against the measure. Motion passed.
5. Treasurer’s Report was approved by a unanimous vote in favor.
6. Minutes of the prior Meeting were approved by a unanimous vote in favor, with a minor correction to the spelling of James Zongker’s name.

Respectfully submitted,

Igor Ponomarev

### Quarterly Treasurer Report

| 2021-2022 |                  | Apr   | May  | Jun  | Jul   |
|-----------|------------------|-------|------|------|-------|
| Revenue   | Dues and Testing | 101.3 | 84.3 | 93.4 | 90.25 |
|           | Events           |       |      |      |       |
|           | Investment       |       |      |      |       |
|           | Member cont      |       |      |      |       |
|           | Other            |       |      |      |       |
|           | Total            | 101.3 | 84.3 | 93.4 | 90.25 |

| Quarterly 2021 Apr-Jun | 1st Q.    |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Starting               | \$5167.16 |
| income                 | 279       |
| expenses               | 0         |
| Ending                 | \$5446.16 |

Current Balance as of Jul 31 \$5536.41.

Submitted by David Feaherston

# Maarieda - Chapter X - Ship 3 Explores the Tigre System

Bill Barnett

Continuation of the story of Maarieda - an excerpt from chapter 10

## Maarieda, January 20, 0011

Max, James, Hans, and Linda headed to the third caldera. There were springs of hot water coming up all over the island.

“Look!” Linda shouted as she pointed to a geyser in front of them. “It’s spraying 30 meters into the air!”

As soon as she said it the geyser stopped.

“Stop here,” Max ordered. “We don’t need to walk into a 105° spray of water. Fly the drone and survey the area for more geysers.”

Hans flew the drone. After 2 hours he said: “We go left. The geyser field is about 5 clicks in diameter and right in front of us.”

Linda asked: “I thought the volcano was extinct?”

“That’s what I thought,” Max replied. “It doesn’t look that way.”

“Is this a super volcano?” Linda asked.

“Good question, maybe,” Max replied. “This probably is not the best island for a new colony. We need a more thorough survey first. It’s 13 years until we are scheduled to plant a colony here, depending on the population growth and everything.”

“This way,” Hans ordered as he led them on a path around the geyser field.

They continued on past the geyser field and camped when Dianna set.

## Maarieda, January 21, 0011

“How does the weather look?” Max asked the ship crew.

“It is the same,” Emma replied. “We are watching the geysers. They have a pattern when they erupt. It’s easy to see them on infra red. We got a report from the ship that a category 6 typhoon just hit the coast where we were. It’s bigger than anything ever reported on Earth.”



“That’s why we left,” Max said. “I didn’t want to find out the hard way. Which way is clear?” he asked.

“Go straight to point F, then follow the coast toward point Z” Emma replied. That will keep you clear of geysers.”

“Let’s go!” Max shouted as he headed toward point F.

“There is steam on all the streams,” Linda said. “This place keeps warm by the steam.”

“Interesting,” Hans said. “Cool place for scientific study, but not the place to live. Look at these rocks. Something cooked them. They don’t have moss.”

“I’ll be glad to get off the island,” James said. “Like you said, interesting place to study, but ...”

Steam was coming out of the rocks next to them.

“What is the shortest way back to the shuttle?” Haluk asked Emma back at the ship.

“Keep going the way you are,” Emma replied. That’s the best way. I’m watching.”

“It looks different on the ground,” Max replied. “We’ll keep going.” Then he said to the ground crew: “Let’s make the best time we can going back, don’t stop for anything, who knows what is happening here.”

They traveled all night and into the morning.

### **Maarieda, January 22, 0011**

Max, James, Hans, and Linda arrived at the shuttle mid morning.

“Leave a weather station, get the agribot, and then we’re off. Into the shuttle now,” Max ordered.

Soon they were back on the ship and sleeping. They planned a meeting for the next day.

### **Maarieda, January 23, 0011**

Haluk called a meeting for everyone on the ship first thing in the morning.

“Is there any new info on South Pole Island?” Haluk asked.

“It seems to stay the same,” Emma replied. “All the data shows that. I don’t think it is as bad as you assumed.”

“Maybe not,” Haluk replied. “Better safe. How does the other pole look?”

“There’s a large Arctic island with a mild climate. It doesn’t seem to have any geothermic activity,” Emma replied.

“Tomorrow we land there,” Haluk ordered.

Everyone continued to monitor the sensors and study the planet.

### **Maarieda, January 24, 0011**

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, Michael landed the shuttle on the east coast of Arctic Island in the morning.

“We collect samples, do a little gardening and leave. Start the agribot,” Haluk ordered. “This time lets follow the coast.”

They headed south along the coast.

“There is nothing but moss. The ocean has algae. There are a few lichens on the rocks. No crystals,” Michael said.

“No golden ferns, no golden mushrooms. Is anything sentient here?” Oliver asked.

They had discovered golden ferns with golden mushrooms growing on them back on Maarieda. The golden ferns were sentient with the mushrooms being eyes and parts of a central nervous system. The golden mushrooms were completely different from other mushrooms. Linda had learned to communicate with the golden ferns.

“Who knows?” questioned Haluk. “Maybe you need to develop a sensor for that. Make an app for your sensor.”

“We’ve been trying,” Oliver replied. “Nothing works. The crystals seem to communicate with drones, we can’t. Someone has to meet the golden ferns in person to communicate with them. That would be a full time position.”

They had found a sentient crystal system back on Maarieda. The crystals and mushrooms communicated with each other. The humans could not communicate with the crystals.

“So, we send Linda to the golden ferns, have her ask the golden ferns to talk to the crystals to talk to this planet?” Michael questioned. “That’s pretty wild, like some kind of fantasy story or something.”

“Everything here is pretty wild,” Emma responded. “It’s a whole new reality with new science.”

They traveled the shore until mid day and stopped for lunch.

“We put the shrimp in the ocean here,” Haluk ordered. “Then we go a half klick inland and leave bugs, frogs, and fish eggs. We’re not finding anything new here. We can plant grass from the shuttle. That worked for Arctica back on Maarieda.”

They headed back to the shuttle and left more fish and frog eggs in the streams they found and released bugs all along the way.

By evening they were back at the shuttle.

“We will continue surveying the planet from orbit,” Haluk said. “First let’s scatter grass seed across the island.”

They circled the planet in a polar orbit looking for more interesting features and scattering seeds where it looked good.

“Time to head back to the ship,” Max ordered. “There is a lot more to explore, but that will be for later. We know what is here and that people can live here.”

“There is a 10% chance the animal life will survive?” Linda asked.

“10% chance for each try, we left animal life several places,” James replied. “It’s a guessing game and luck. The more we try the better the odds.”

### **Maarieda, January 29, 0011**

They finished exploring Hestia from orbit. Emma said that maybe 10% of the land was desirable for habitation and another 10% people might survive on. It was half at each pole.

Haluk called a meeting. “The first exploration of Hestia has been successful. Another will be planned. In a few years a colony will be started here. Tomorrow we go to Poseidon. Time to relax today,” he said.

# Maarieda - Chapter XI - Ship 3 Explores the Tigre System

**Maarieda, January 30, 0011**

They headed the ship to Poseidon, an Earth class moon of Rhea. Rhea is a toxic super Earth with a dense atmosphere and no oxygen. Poseidon is an Earth class planet like Maarieda. It was considered for initial colonization, but passed up for landing on Maarieda. Both had excellent habitable characteristics. Due to limited resources only one was chosen. Poseidon has complex seasons due to the elliptical orbit of Rhea combined with its own orbit and axis tilt. Rhea has two small rocky moons of Rhea, Aethra and Celaeno.

As they passed through space there was nothing but black sky and stars. With Tigre behind them they had a view of deep space. They all watched. It had been years since they had seen this view.

“This is what everything looked like before we landed on Maarieda. Just black sky and stars. But those stars were changing. Stars here don’t move, they stay in one place,” Linda said.

“I remember Earth. That was my frame of reference,” Haluk replied. “The stars there didn’t move. The moving stars were a change. It was fascinating to see the stars move. It took a long time to adapt to a spaceship instead of a planet.”

“For me a space ship is normal. Planets are wonderful, but a strange place to live,” Linda replied.

They watched the scene before them in silence. There were a few stars that moved, the planets. The ship was not at near light speed so only planets, asteroids and moons seemed to move.

**Maarieda, January 31, 0011**

They entered orbit around Rhea.

“We will map Rhea, but not land here,” Haluk ordered.

“Are we going to test the atmosphere?” Michael asked.

“No,” Haluk replied. “We will stay in orbit and study the planet from here. It is toxic and we aren’t going there. Someday there will be a complete study of the planet. This trip is for a general survey. We are minimizing risk.”

“We have a reading on the atmosphere of Rhea,” James said. “96% carbon dioxide, 1% carbon monoxide, 2% sulfur dioxide, and 1% argon. You don’t want to be anywhere near that.”

“That sounds really poisonous!” Linda exclaimed. “Wow! At least not all of the planets here are bad. It seemed like most of the ones we passed on the way to Maarieda were unlivable one way or another.”

“That’s why we came to Maarieda,” James replied. “And there was more than one livable planet here.”

They continued to study Rhea from orbit and then headed to Poseidon.

### **Maarieda, January 32, 0011**

They entered orbit around Poseidon, the largest moon of Rhea. The other 2 moons, Aethra and Celaeno were small rocky moons with no atmosphere.

“We will map Poseidon today, and land tomorrow,” Haluk ordered. “At noon we will meet and everyone can report what they have seen.”

By noon they had preliminary info on the planet.

“The atmosphere is 0.9 Barr, 28% Oxygen, 69% Nitrogen, 1% argon, 1% water, and 1% other,” James said. “Nothing toxic in the spectrum analysis.”

“The oceans is two thirds of the surface. The land is mostly large islands about 100 klicks across,” Hans said. “There is one narrow continent that surrounds the planet around the equator cutting the ocean into two completely different oceans. The north and south oceans look different.”

“The flora seems to be like that on Maarieda and Dianna,” Emma said. “And no fauna. No signs of animal life.”

“The spectral analysis does not show any animal biology, no animal biochemicals,” James added.

“150 klicks east of the prime meridian there is a cove on the north shore of the equatorial continent,” Max said. “There are nearby mountains and crystal formations we can see from orbit.”

“There seem to be golden ferns there,” James added. “That’s what it looks like from here.”

“Crystal Cove on Ecuador is Landing Point 1,” Haluk ordered. “What else?”

“We are studying the islands,” the rest of the crew said. “We’ll have info this evening.”

After dinner they met again.

“What do we have on the islands?” Haluk asked.

“North Frog Island looks good,” Linda said. “It looks like the shape of a frog from the sky. The surface is a plain across the whole island. We can land in the middle of it. There are lots of good landing places. We just picked one.”

“Landing Point 2,” Haluk ordered. “How about the south?”

“South Frog Island,” Hans said. “It looks like another frog. There is a mountain range in the middle and a flat area in the middle of the mountains.”

“Landing Point 3,” Haluk ordered. “In the morning we take the shuttle for a closer look. The next day we land.”

### **Maarieda, January 33, 0011**

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael took the shuttle for a closer look at the landing areas. Max, James, Hans, and Linda continued to study the planet from the ship.

“Let’s get a close look at Landing Area 1,” Haluk ordered.

The shuttle hovered over Crystal Cove. There was calm water and a flat beach the opposite side from the opening to the ocean. The opening to the ocean was tiny. Crystal formations surrounded the cove in a pattern.

“That looks good like a good landing place,” Haluk said as he pointed to the detailed map on the screen. “We come back here tomorrow.”

The shuttle flew to Landing Point 2 and Landing Point 3. Haluk confirmed a detailed landing spot at each. Then they returned to the ship.

“Any new info?” Haluk asked when they were back on the ship?

“More details on everything, but nothing really changed,” Max replied.

### **Maarieda, January 34, 0011**

Haluk, Emma, Linda, and Michael, landed the shuttle on Poseidon at Landing Point One. When the shuttle landed they donned their suits, grabbed their instruments and a cage of birds. They stepped into the airlock, closed the door behind them and then stepped out onto the surface of Hestia.

“Seven planets!” Haluk exclaimed. “Earth, the Moon, Mars, twice to Maarieda, Dianna, Hestia, and now Poseidon.”

“Wooo hoo!” the crew shouted.

“Will it ever be ordinary?” Max asked from the ship.

“Maybe at 100 landings,” Haluk replied. “Everyone knows the routine now. Let’s go!” he ordered.

They released the birds, set out food for them, and started the agribot.

“How is the air?” Haluk asked.

“Still the same good reading,” Emma replied.

“The birds are okay,” Linda said.

Haluk took off his helmet and breathed the air. “It’s good!” he said.

They all took off their helmets and breathed the air.

“It’s good,” Linda said.

They went to the nearby crystals, which put on a light display.

“They talked when we were in the sky, if you call it talk,” Linda said. “Put the drone here,” she ordered.

They put the drone near the crystals and the two began to ‘talk’ as they did back in the caves on Maarieda.

“On to the Golden Ferns!” Haluk ordered.

In an hour they were at the Golden Ferns.

“Linda, can you talk to them?” Haluk asked.

“I will try,” Linda replied. She had joined the landing party to communicate with the ferns.

“You and Michael stay and talk to the ferns,” Haluk ordered. “Emma and I are going to explore the cove. Be back by dark.”

Linda tried communicating with the Golden Ferns and nothing happened. It had been easy on Maarieda. They had the same golden mushrooms.

“These don’t talk?” Michael asked.

“They are ignoring us,” Linda said.

“Maybe we need to piss them off.” Michael said.

“NO!” Linda shouted.

“That’s what got the other ferns talking. Are you sure these are sentient?” Michael asked.

“You don’t need to hurt them!” Linda exclaimed.

“Then what?” Michael asked.

The drone flew over them, circled the ferns, and left.

“Tomorrow we bring the drone,” Linda ordered. “You’ll see.”

At dusk they arrived at the shuttle.

“How did it go with the Golden Ferns?” Haluk asked.

“They weren’t speaking to us,” Linda replied. “We need to take a drone tomorrow. How about the crystals?”

“The drone recorded info,” Haluk replied. “The computer can’t translate anything. We try again tomorrow.”

They set up a tent and slept on the planet.

## Appendix - Biographies

**Senior Captain Amie Johansson**

Electrical Engineer, Amie is married to James. Her children were Linda, Doug, Otto, and Adele. She is Senior Captain and commanding officer.

**Captain Haluk Jørgensen**



Botanist, was married to Helen, who passes away from space dust sickness. Has children with Helen.

Captain Max Møller  
Engineer, Married to Emma. Has children with Emma.

Lieutenant James Andersson  
Biologist Married to Amie. Has children with Amie.

Lieutenant Emma Faber, Geographer  
Married to Max. Her children are Otis and Adele.

Michael Karlsson  
Child of Sally and Bob. The sceptic. Married to Linda and Lisa. There were two men and four women in the space generation. They preferred monogamy but had to adapt to polygamy to survive.

Linda Andersson  
Physician Child of Amie and James. Married to Michael. Child Alice.

Oliver Haugen, Astrophysicist

Hans Jørgensen  
Engineer, child of Helen and Haluk. Married to Vanessa. Has children with Vanessa.

Lisa Berger  
Child of Sam and Mindy, youngest, was 11 at landing on Maarieda. Married to Michael.  
Peacemaker, common sense, empath, mothering. Pirated the cure from extended puberty because she wanted to be a mother.. All the young people were at the verge of puberty but not there.  
Children Lori and Eric. Very smart, but not classified as highly gifted like the rest.