Sunflower Seeds

Wichita on the River at Night

Zoom meetings on Saturdays at 4:00 PM
Link Inside

October 2021, Volume – 49, Issue # 10

Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter

Officers for 2021

LocSec: Bill Barnett 316-214-3330 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
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

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

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.

November 6, 2021, 12:45pm
Cheddars Scratch Kitchen, 11711 E. 13th St. N., Wichita 316-688-0401
December 4, 2021, 12:45pm
Bella Luna Café, 2132 N. Rock Rd., Wichita 316-634-0008
December 11, 2021, 2:00pm
Christmas party
January 1, 2022, 12:45pm
YaYa's Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st St. North, Wichita 316-634-1000
Pig-Outs are the perfect place to invite friends.

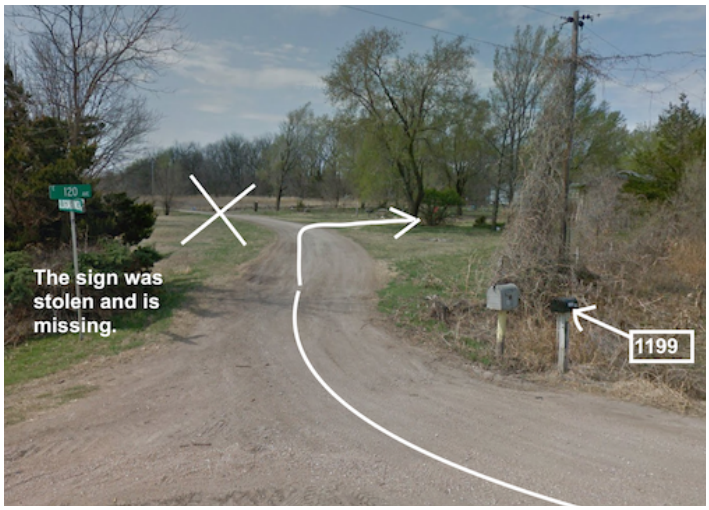
Meeting Schedule

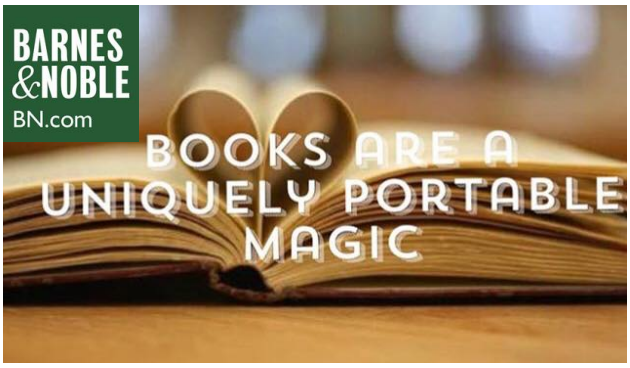
1st Saturday, November 6, 2021, 12:45pm - Pigout
Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, 11711 E. 13th St. N., Wichita 316-688-0401

See The Pig-Out Column for more details.

2nd Saturday November 13 at 2:00 pm
Neal B. Secrist, DO of New Medical Health Care will speak.
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, Nov. 20, 11:00 am
Cather Wildlife Refuge at 1199 Old Goat Ranch Road, Mulvane, Kansas. We have been there before. Go south out of Mulvane, turn left at the river, (you can't go any other way) turn right at the next county road, (kids stole the street sign) go to the end of the road, go through the gate and up to the old house near the gate. Try googling directions first. Call the editor ahead of time if you still need directions. Finding it is an IQ test. You score 85+ if you find it. It is on well maintained gravel county roads.





4th Saturday, November 27 at 7:00 pm
Barnes and Noble Cafe at 1920 N Rock Rd, Wichita, KS 67206

Zoom Meetings Saturdays at 4:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTlSQT09

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

Plan For The Christmas Party

We will have a pot luck dinner. The group will provide a meat dish and drinks, pending board approval. Location to be determined. PLEASE RSVP so we will know how many are coming.

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

In catching up on Mensa business recently, I was reminded how much content there truly is! Not only is Mensa a great place to find intellectually-cool friends, but it's also a great place to find great swag (our store), games (Mind Games), events (dinners, movies, etc.) and more!

But additionally, and more to the point, I was just reading some emails that came out from our national organization. For one, awards were just awarded. There are so many!!! Mensa has the Distinguished Service Award, National Service Awards, National Certificates of Appreciation, Chairman's Service Awards, Gifted Youth Program Awards, Owl Awards, Jewel Awards for local group efforts and more! I won't go into the winners for this year since they've been highlighted other places and you can find more information on the American Mensa site. But these recipients go to great lengths to make sure our Mensa experience is stellar. The awards are extremely well deserved!

Additionally, there are a few amazing programs that happen annually. This year the World Gathering incorporated Mind Games in a little different fashion due to Covid. They allowed judges to play throughout the event and then awarded the Mensa Seal and distributed game copies same as any other year. But this year everyone at the Gathering could share in the excitement! Plus, the annual Scholarship (run through the Mensa Foundation) and Membership Month Programs just started. While Membership Month – October – and testing promotions may be finished by the time you read this, there's no reason not to celebrate our members or those who apply for scholarships.

So whatever your local group is doing this month, let's take a minute to celebrate our volunteers and try to share a bit of what we love about this organization with others. See you at an event soon!

How To Shoot A Cave

Bill Barnett

Sony a7Sii, 12-24mm f/4 lens, 16 mm, f/9

Setting up a cave picture. The best time is just after sunrise or just before sunset to get the best light in the sky. A partly cloudy sky with good patterns of small fluffy clouds is ideal. An alternative is with a full moon if you have a fast lens (f/1.4 or 1.8) and a camera with a low light sensor. The cave will be darker inside than outside so, bring video lights or a flash. Use the widest angle lens you have, such as a 12mm lens on a full frame camera. Use a camera that shoots well in low light. Set up the lights so that the inside of the cave is one or two stops darker than outside. It will take experimentation to get the light right. Bracket the light settings on the camera and take photos at different light settings. Study the cave and how it relates to the outside. Take photos at different positions and angles. It is difficult to guess the light settings in a cave. Experiment with it, with luck, and a lot of photos one will be good. The photo here is an experiment.

How To Shoot A Prairie In The Dark

Bill Barnett

Sony a7Sii, 12mm f/1.4 lens, iso 250, 10 seconds

Setting up a nighttime prairie picture. The best time is past nautical twilight with a full or partly full moon and a clear sky. The best place is far away from city lights. Think midnight in the wild. The picture here has the moon about 1/2 full. The colors and shadows will be very different from daytime. It is a different world. Set the lens at wide open and adjust the iso and time as needed. It is possible to shoot the prairie in starlight. For that set the iso high and the picture will have some noise. The camera used here is one of the most sensitive for low light. It can do iso 409,000, but becomes very noisy above about iso 25,000. The lens used here seems to somehow magically do better than f/1.4. I have a guess why, but can't verify it.

With some of today's cameras you can shoot pictures when it is so dark you can't see. If you lost your flashlight you could navigate by using the camera to see.

If you are interested in these photos contact the editor.

How To Shoot A Lake In Bluelight

Bill Barnett

Sony a7Sii, 12mm f/1.4 lens, iso 100, 1/320 seconds

Setting up a bluelight lake picture. Just before dawn the light in the sky is blue. It will turn golden in moments. Think just before morning in the wild. The sky only looked like this for seconds.

There is a story with this picture. A friend and I canoed the river leading into the lake in the afternoon. As evening approached he went to camp in the state park and I went to do night photos. There was an eagle flying in the shy. There were pelicans, blue herons, seagulls, sandhill cranes, and ibis birds. It looked like the perfect place for nature photography. There was an island in the middle of the river at the lake entrance. That looked like the perfect place to hide and wait for the birds. When the canoe landed and I stepped on the shore I realized it was a quicksand island. Happily the canoe was helpful in escaping and I camped on the rocky lake shore, a much more stable landing, but no way to hide.

You just have to be in the right place at the exact right time for this one.

Send the editor your photos for the next issue.

You are talented. Send a photo and a story.

Program Speakers

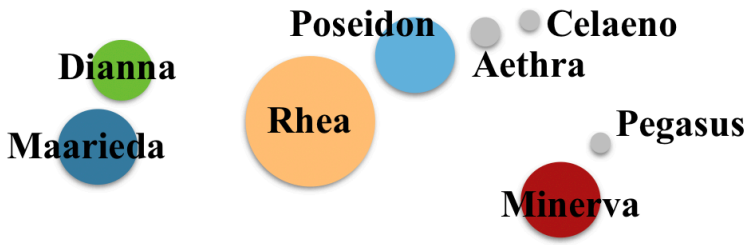
This is your group. You are talented and can make it better. Its time for you to speak to the group. Contact Bill Barnett with your topic.

What does Mensa mean in Spanish? Extra credit if you know.

More Mensa jokes:
https://www.pinterest.com/lauramclark/mensa-jokes/

Maarieda - Chapter XII - Ship 3 Explores the Tigre System

Bill Barnett



Continuation of the story of Maarieda - an excerpt from chapter 12, 13, 14

Maarieda, March 5, 0011

Max, James, Hans, and Linda, landed the shuttle on Equator Island. They set about planting walnut trees.

“Tomorrow fruit trees,” Max said. “These are the seed trees for the future.” When there is a good forest start here we go to another island.”

“Just hard work?” asked Hans. “What about science, this is going to get boring.”

“Its how the planet gets terraformed,” Max said. “We will study the result later. There aren’t enough agribots.”

“When can we start building new agribots?” Linda asked. “Isn’t that better?”

“Long run we have to,” James said. “We don’t have the tools. To build the tools and mine the raw materials will take decades. We need livable spaces now. So we do it the hard way. We will get tools in time, someday.”

After dark they returned to the shuttle.

Maarieda, March 6, 0011

Max, James, Hans, and Linda were up early planting fruit trees. As the island was tropical they could plant tropical trees that would be good for when the planet was settled.

“Where next?” asked James.

“We go one island north,” Haluk replied. “And keep planting. We always take samples.”

After dark they loaded the agribot and flew one island north.

Maarieda, March 7, 0011

Max, James, Hans, and Linda set out to explore the island. They started the agribot when they landed.

“There is much less vegetation here,” Hans said.

“Its less developed than the other planets,” James replied.

“I think life is just getting started here,” Linda said. “I wonder if golden ferns will grow here?”

“How can they get here?” asked Hans. “ They cant go anywhere. How do they reproduce, besides by roots?”

“I will have to ask them back on Maarieda,” Linda replied. “There is a lot to talk to them about. At least there is someone here who knows about the history of the planet.”

“I would have never imagined talking to plants,” said Max. “Of everything we’ve found, that is the most amazing.”

“You are an Earth person,” Linda replied. “You don’t get space. Everything is different, or the same, both ways. Your imagination is stunted.”

“Okay, I stand corrected,” Max gasped. “We will see.”

They spent two more days on the island exploring and planting trees. Then they stored the agribot and returned to the ship.

“How is it?” Haluk asked.

“A lot to do, more than we possibly can do now,” Max replied. “Its a start. We can plant more seed from the sky. I say we move on to ibnSidah ahead of schedule. There is just something about that place. I don’t know what. It would be good to have as much time there as possible.”

“The mother planet is there,” Linda said. “And the nursery. We need to go there.”

“What is the nursery?” Haluk questioned with apprehension. It seemed the girl had some kind of magic, like the witches on Earth, but of course witches aren’t real.

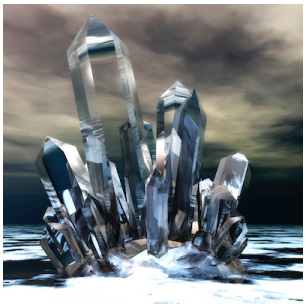
“The baby crystals are there,” Linda said. “Its time for them to move to their new homes.”

“What makes you think that?” asked Max with more apprehension.

“The golden ferns told me,” Linda said.

“So they made babies after you talked to the ferns?” Emma quarried with suspicion.

“No, they are 175,000 years old,” Linda replied. “That’s babies for crystals.”



“The ferns told you that?” Haluk asked. “What else did they tell you?”

“They told me a lot of things,” Linda replied.

“Why didn’t you tell us?” asked Emma.

“You don’t have a need to know,” Linda replied. “They aren’t going to hurt you. They like us. We were sent here to help the crystals. Its time.”

“They told you that?” asked Max. “Time for what? Then how did the crystals and ferns get here?” he asked with sarcasm.

“The ancient ones put them there, and then left,” Linda replied.

“Who are the ancient ones?” Haluk demanded.

“They are like us, the space people,” Linda replied.

“You mean you kids, or all of us?” Max asked.

“The ones born in space,” Linda replied. “Earth people were poisoned, it wasn’t chemicals, it was greed and murder. That’s why they live such a short time.”

“I want the whole story!” Haluk demanded.

“Amie is Moses, like in the story you taught us when we were little, Hans is Joshua, but he will be called Halukson. This star system is the promised land. No one is going to hurt you,” Linda replied. The crew stared at her in disbelief. “That’s enough!” she demanded.

They all just stared in wonder and dread at the prophetess. After what seemed like ages they returned to work. No one asked any more questions.

Maarieda, March 8, 0011

Haluk, Lieutenant Emma, Oliver, and Michael took the shuttle and began to spread seed from the sky. No one asked Linda any more questions. The Earth people realized the kids, the space people, their grown kids knew the whole story.

Maarieda, March 22, 0011

They headed to Thetis, the 7th planet and a small gas giant, and its moon Achilles.

Thetis - 7th planet, orbit 6 years, 40,000 km, small water giant
Achilles - satellite of Thetis, orbit 24 days, 8,200 km, atmosphere 0.5 Barr, 24% O^2, 0.6G
Xantho - satellite of Thetis, orbit 48 days, 5,000 km, no atmosphere, rocky
Zantho - satellite of Thetis, orbit 72 days, 4,000 km, low atmosphere, icy
Sao - satellite of Thetis, orbit 105 days, 2,400 km, low atmosphere, icy
Psamathe - satellite of Rhea, orbit 125 days, 600 km, low atmosphere, icy
Thoe - satellite of Rhea, orbit 149 days, 400 km, low atmosphere, icy

Maarieda, March 29, 0011

They entered orbit around Thetis and started to map the planet system.

“We will map the system today today,” Haluk ordered. “I want to know why this planet is so warm and its moons are so warm. At noon we will meet and everyone can report what they see. Every day we will map another moon. That will give us a rough map preliminary map of where we are. Then we will study Achilles more throughly.”

“I thought we were getting this exploration thing down, but we keep learning and having to adapt,” Max said.

“At least we learned how not to kill ourselves, I hope,” James said.

Linda just looked at them, huffed and sighed and shook her head.

They looked at her and didn’t say anything. She was taking a leadership role that was a mystery to them.

By evening they had preliminary info on the planet system.

Haluk called a meeting. “What have you learned?” he asked.

“The orbit data from this planet system never made sense. It did not add up,” James said. “Thetis is much denser than we thought. It must have a very heavy core. I am guessing it has a uranium core instead of iron and the core is heating the planet. That’s why the ocean is not frozen. It also has a massive greenhouse atmosphere. Almost like it is a mini fission star inside of an ocean. It is actually heating the moons.”

“The moons seem denser than we thought,” Max said. “If they have uranium cores then that would explain why they are not all frozen.”

“We take a closer look at Thetis tomorrow,” Haluk said.

Maarieda, March 30, 0011

They entered a closer orbit around Thetis and continued to map the water world.

“The atmosphere is similar to Dianna,” James said. “Nothing toxic in the spectrum analysis.”

Maarieda, March 41, 0011

They landed on Achilles.

Maarieda, April 41, 0011

They entered orbit around Pleaxure.

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

By noon they had preliminary info on the planet.

“What does it look like?” Haluk asked.

“Gravity .35 G, atmosphere .3 Barr, 6% oxygen, 89% nitrogen, 2% carbon dioxide, 2% argon, 1% water, Barely above freezing some of the time. Mostly ice and some arctic tundra. One extinct volcano, 11,000 meters high, otherwise mostly flat. Days are 32 hours,” Emma replied.

“Spacesuits and don’t bother planting anything,” Haluk ordered. “Anything else?”

“Some organic chemicals that we can’t identify,” Oliver replied.

We land tomorrow, keep studying,” Haluk ordered.

Later in the afternoon Michael said: “There is an island just north of the equator. The ocean there seems to have relatively thin ice. We could land there and drill.”

“Perfect,” Haluk said. ‘We land there in the morning. Take instruments to measure the ice thickness and a boat.”

NEED TO DRILL in the arctic!!!!

Maarieda, April 42, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael landed on Pleaxure on a beach near the frozen ocean. They stepped out of the shuttle with spacesuits on and no intention of taking them off. It was -5º. They had to pressurize the suits and keep them at 40% oxygen. They were more bouncing than walking in the low gravity.

“How does it look?” Emma asked.

“Something used to live here,” Oliver replied.

“Yea, there’s frozen moss and ferns here. Looks like they have been frozen a long time.”

“How long?” Haluk asked.

“The sensor says a thousand years,” Emma replied. “I’ll take some samples so we can study them better back at the ship. There must have been a climate change.”

“How does the ice look?” Haluk asked.

“The sensor says it is a thousand years old,” Michael replied. “We can take samples of it too.”

“The sensor says it goes to the bottom at the beach here,” Oliver replied.

“Lets go. Pull the boat with the cart and keep taking ice measurements. There could be a warm current and thin ice somewhere. It looked good from space, but there could be an anomaly.”

They traveled across the ice out to sea monitoring the ice thickness as they went.

“We’re 230 meters out and the ice is 45 meters thick. There is water below the ice,” Oliver said.

“Good, keep going,” Haluk ordered. “Keep watching.”

“We’re 2 klicks out and the ice is 10 meters deep here. It suddenly got thinner here,” Oliver said.

“Fly the drone,” Haluk ordered. “Put the ice sensor on it.”

Oliver flew the drone, landing it on the ice every 100 meters.

“Its only a meter thick another half klick out and then it gets thicker,” Oliver said.

“Mark the ice here. Bring the drone back. We drill here tomorrow. This should be easier drilling than we thought,” Haluk said.

The headed back to the shuttle and flew the drone more from there.

Maarieda, May 1, 0011

Haluk, Emma, Oliver, and Michael were up early with the drilling equipment.

“Put the drilling equipment in the cart and let it pull the boat. I’m not taking any chances. Something is warming the ice in this spot,” Haluk ordered.

They headed across the ice to the marked spot, taking ice measurements.

“Any change in the ice?” Haluk asked.

“The same,” Oliver replied.

“Drill here,” Haluk ordered. “Take core samples.”

By evening they had core samples all the way to the water.

“We can’t just leave this. The ice will close,” Haluk said. “We take turns drilling and sleeping. Put the aquabot on a tether, lower it into the water, and keep the hole open. Oliver and I will take first shift,” he ordered.

Emma and Michael tried to sleep and couldn’t. Haluk and Oliver lowered the aquabot into the hole and began to monitor what is saw.

“Normal salinity, very clear water, and just above freezing,” Oliver said. I’m taking it to the bottom.” The aquabot reached the bottom at 130 meters. “There is a current here,” Oliver said.

“Look,” Haluk said. “There is an ocean vent. What’s it like?”

Oliver took the aquabot toward the vent and said: “38º.”

“There is something moving in the water,” Haluk said. “Catch one.”

Oliver caught one and brought the aquabot back to the surface. “What is that?” he asked.

“Yea, what is it?” Haluk replied.

“It looks kind of like a shrimp worm,” Oliver replied.

“Test it!” Haluk exclaimed. “Maybe we found animal life.”

“It has some kind of bacteria DNA, sort of, but different. It isn’t animal DNA.” Oliver replied. “And some organic compounds I can’t identify.”

“Mark it as a level 2 biohazard,” Haluk ordered. “We need to test it more.”

“We can bring birds, frogs, and fish tomorrow and see how they react,” Oliver suggested.

“Do it,” Haluk ordered. “Good plan. We need to catch more.”

They spent the rest of the night catching shrimp worms.

Maarieda, May 2, 0011

Emma and Michael were up early with the drilling equipment. After clearing the hole they headed back to the shuttle for a bird, frog, and fish. Haluk and Oliver slept.

“Feed one of these things to the bird,” Emma ordered.

The bird was in a pressurized cage with oxygen. When it saw the shrimp worm it immediately ate it. Soon it was walking around like it was drunk and singing off key. The it keeled over and looked dead.

“Did it die?” Emma asked.

“It doesn’t have a heartbeat,” replied Michael.

“Feed one to the frog,” Emma ordered.

The frog reacted the same as the bird.

“Toxic, huh,” Emma said. “Feed one to the fish.”

The fish ate it and soon died.

“Damn!” Emma exclaimed. “It seemed everything was safe and now this. Was it chemical or an infection?” she asked.

Micheal put the dead animals against the sensor and had a confused look on his face and said: “Yes, no, both, neither, can’t tell.”

“Level 4 pathogen. Mark it as such and seal it. Disinfect everything,” Emmas said.

They spent the day studying what they found.

When Haluk and Oliver woke up Emma explained everything.

“We’re out of here. Now we know. This can be explored later. Back to the ship,” Haluk ordered.

They headed back to the shuttle, disinfected everything, and headed to the ship.

“Onward to the ibnSidah system,” Haluk ordered. “We will have a little more time there. We should be there in 2 weeks.”

How To Escape Quicksand

Bill Barnett

We all saw the movies of the explorers in a swamp sinking in quicksand until they dissapeared under the muck. Then the hero magically saved them and pulled them out. And the bad guy sunk to his death. The good guy didn’t have to soil himself by killing the bad guy. That was really popular for a while until Hollywood used the theme to death.

It doesn’t really work like that. People float in quicksand just like water, so you would sink up to your neck. Sounds really bad. The more someone tries to pull out the deeper they sink. If someone bends their knees and lays down they can float and wiggle out. Quicksand looks like good ground until someoe steps on it. Then it liquidifies and the foot sinks. Stepping down with the other foot to pull out the stuck foot only gets them both stuck deeper.

I have found quicksand twice in Kansas. Once crossing a beaver pond at Lake Kanopolis. It was the Rockin K Marathon. The trail crosses a beaver pond. The horse path in the middle is deep. On the right is soft muck below the water. The bouency of the water helps escape. On the left is better ground. At the end of the Elk River where it goes into Elk City Lake there is an island in the middle of the river. It is Quicksand Island. I tried to land a canoe there. I escaped by putting my weight on the canoe. It would have been a real mess laying down to wiggle out to water.**Plan For The Christmas Party**

We will have a pot luck dinner. The group will provide a meat dish and drinks, pending board approval. Location to be determined. PLEASE RSVP so we will know how many are coming.

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http://www.us.mensa.org